



Solo Leveling

5

DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)

ORIGINAL STORY
CHUGONG

The cover features a central illustration of a young woman with short, layered blonde hair and bangs. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to her left. She is wearing a dark, high-collared outfit with intricate, layered armor on her shoulders and chest, featuring gold and dark blue/black segments. The background is a light blue, ethereal space with soft, wispy clouds and faint, larger-scale patterns. The title 'Solo Leveling' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'Solo' in white and 'Leveling' in a blue, gothic-style font. Below the title is a large, blue number '5'. At the bottom, the publisher 'DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)' and the original story author 'CHUGONG' are listed in a clean, sans-serif font.

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5

DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)

ORIGINAL STORY
CHUGONG

CHARACTERS

Jinwoo Song



S-rank Hunter

Hoein Cha



S-rank Hunter,
Hunters Guild

Kihoon Son



A-rank Hunter,
Hunters Guild

Gunhee Go



S-rank Hunter, Hunter's
Association of Korea

Jinchul Woo



A-rank Hunter, Hunter's
Association of Korea

Jinhu Yoo



D-rank Hunter



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Solo
Leveling

CHAPTER 11

**The Paragon of the
Excavation Team**



Solo
Leveling





YOU'RE
AWARE OF THE
TOP FIVE GUILDS,
AREN'T YOU?



AT PRESENT,
THERE IS A
DELICATE BALANCE
BETWEEN THESE
FIVE DRAGONS OF
KOREA.



HUNTERS



FAME



WHITE TIGER



REAPERS



KNIGHTS

NO MATTER WHICH
ONE YOU JOIN, THE
BALANCE WILL TIP
AND FORCE A HUGE
CHANGE.



YOU CANNOT
CONTROL HUNTERS
WITH LAWS AND
THREATS OF LEGAL
ACTION.

THAT IS WHY
WE NEED THE
ASSOCIATION.

MAGIC
BEASTS AREN'T
THE ONLY
MONSTERS—

HUNTERS CAN
BE JUST AS
MONSTROUS.



WHAT
WILL YOU
DO, HUNTER
SLUG?

.....



IT'S NOT
A BAD
PROPOSAL.

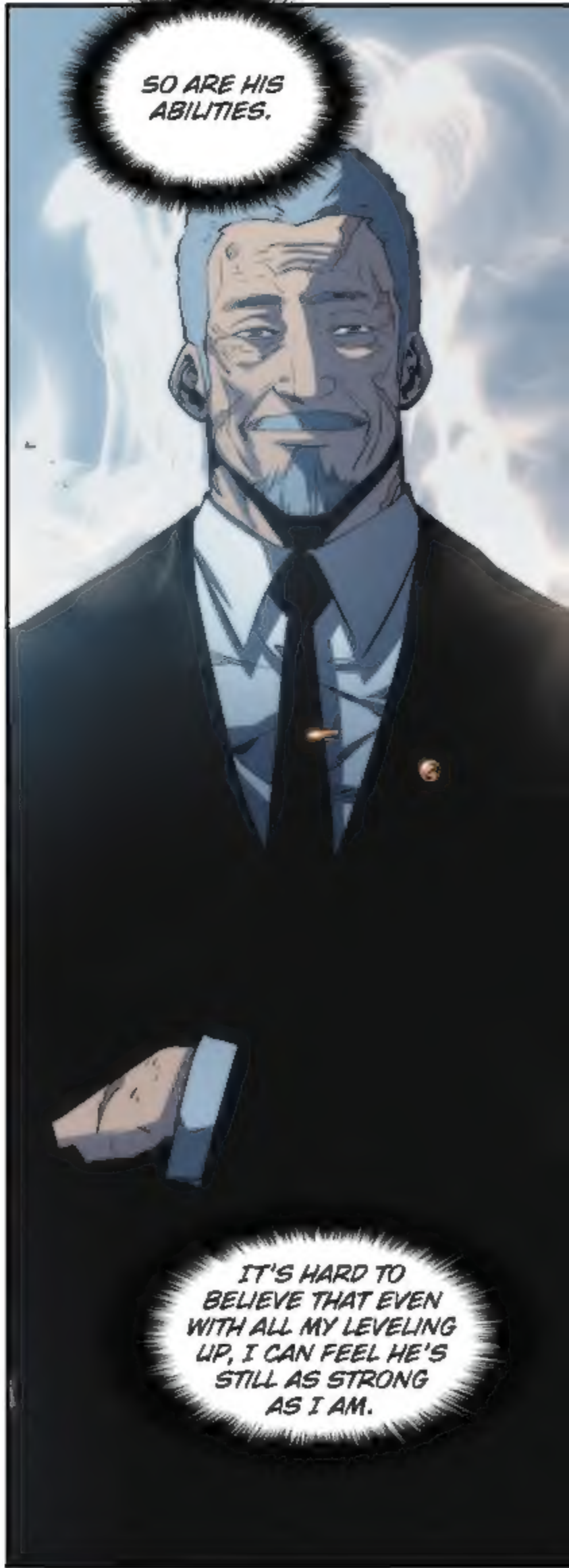
WITH PRESIDENT GO
BEHIND HIM, EVEN
SOME RANDOM GUY
OFF THE STREET
COULD FIND SUCCESS.

CONGRESS, THE
GOVERNMENT, THE
ASSOCIATION, AND
EVEN THE MEDIA.

GO HAS INFLUENCE
OVER THEM ALL.

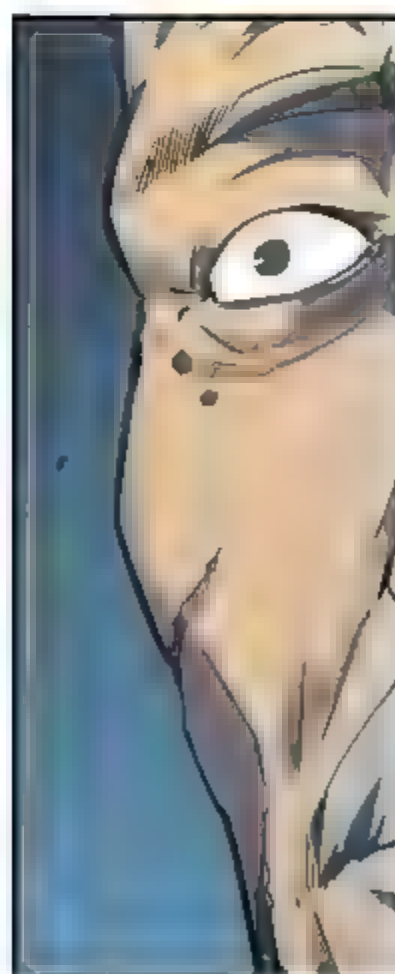
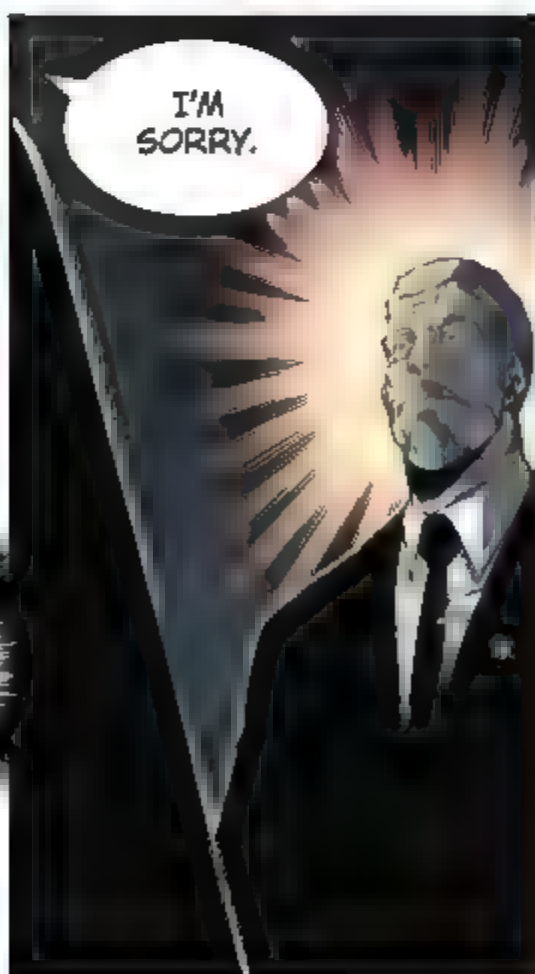
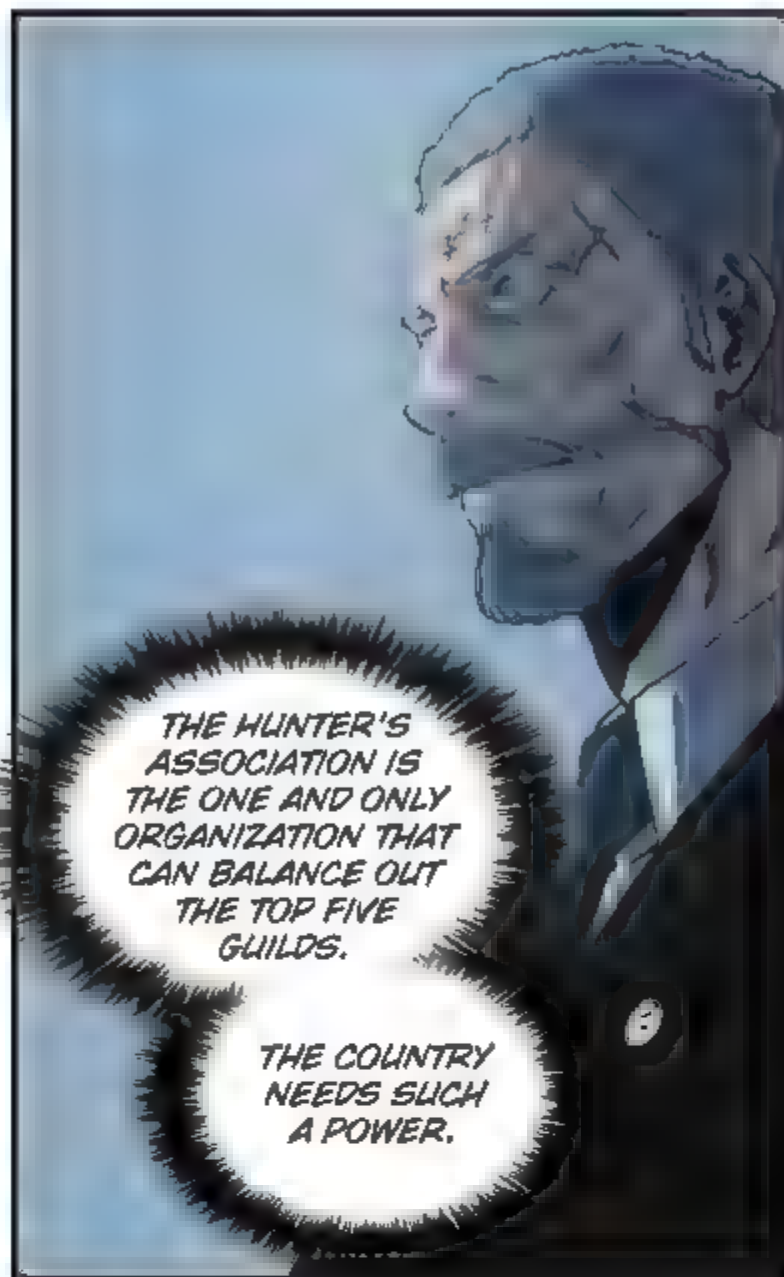


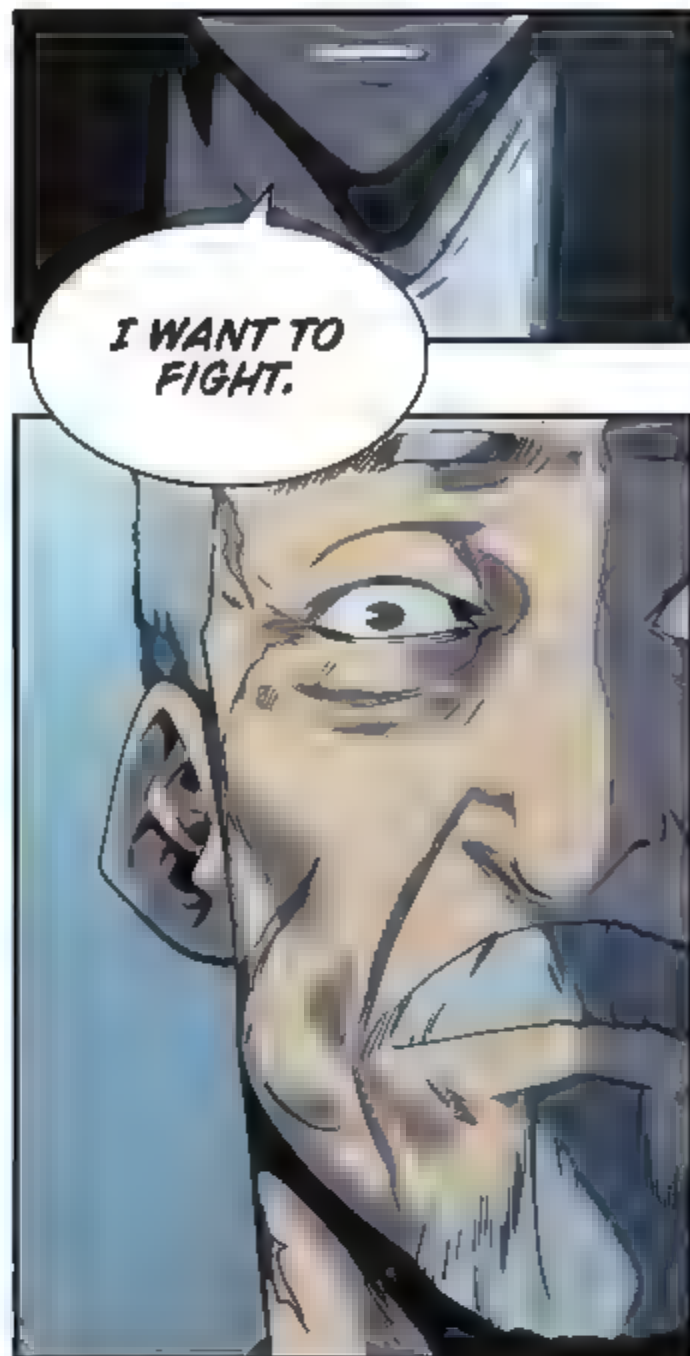
MR. GO,
YOU'RE TRULY
AMAZING.



SO ARE HIS
ABILITIES.

IT'S HARD TO
BELIEVE THAT EVEN
WITH ALL MY LEVELING
UP, I CAN FEEL HE'S
STILL AS STRONG
AS I AM.









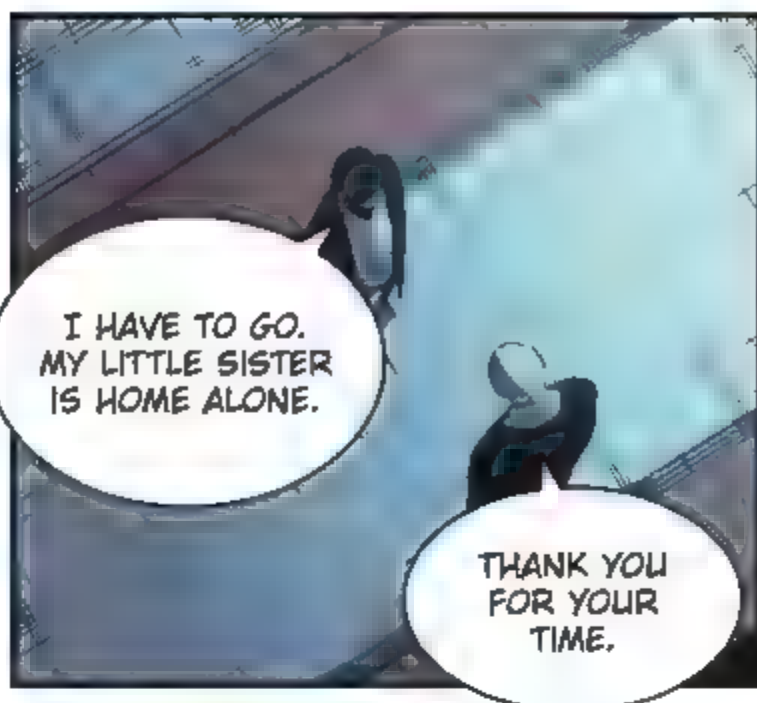
SO, MY HEART
CAN STILL BEAT
THIS QUICKLY!

BADUM

IF I
WERE TWENTY—
NO, TEN YEARS
YOUNGER, I COULD
FIGHT ALONGSIDE A
YOUNG MAN LIKE
HIM...!

BADUM

BADUM



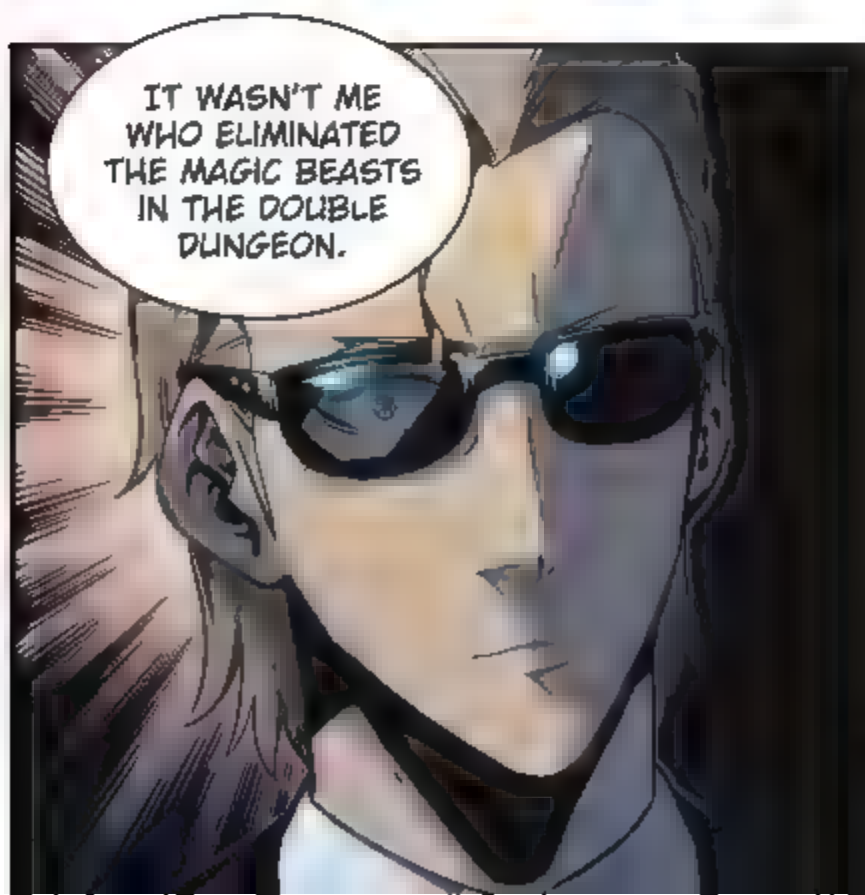
I HAVE TO GO.
MY LITTLE SISTER
IS HOME ALONE.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
TIME.



MANAGER
WOO.

YOU WERE
RIGHT ABOUT
ONE THING.

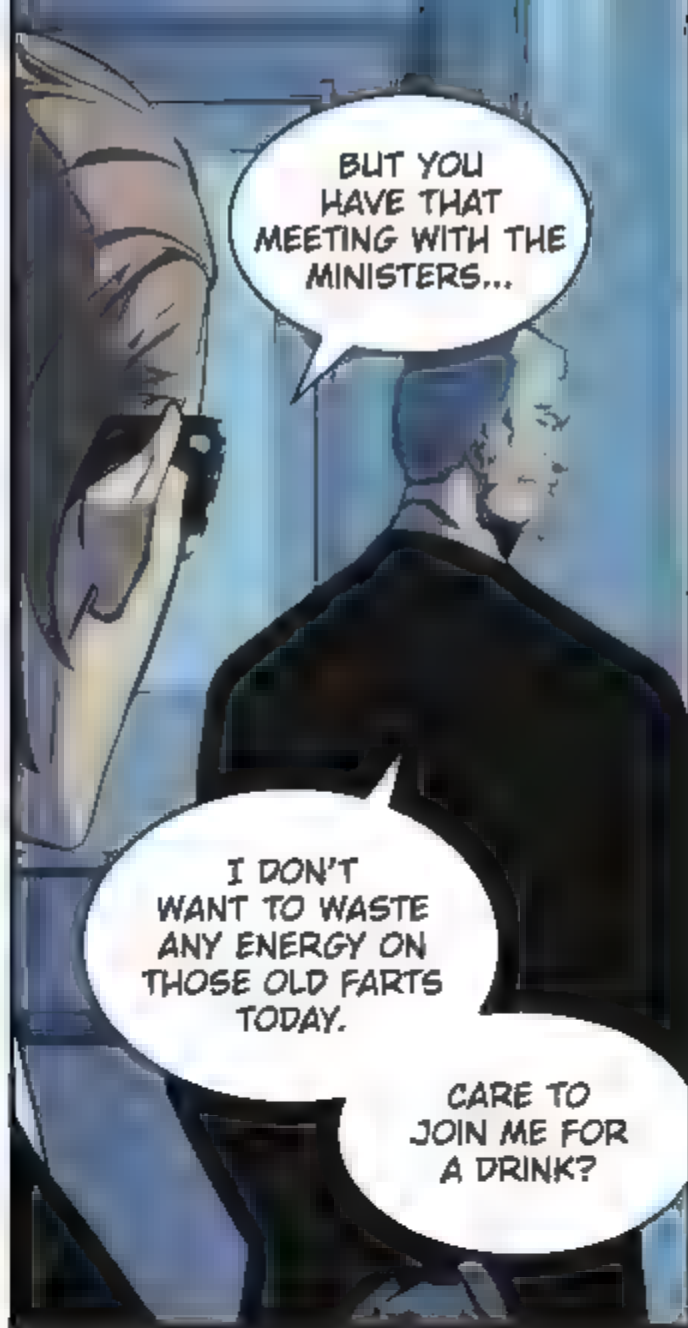


IT WASN'T ME
WHO ELIMINATED
THE MAGIC BEASTS
IN THE DOUBLE
DUNGEON.



THEN WHO
THE HELL
DID...?

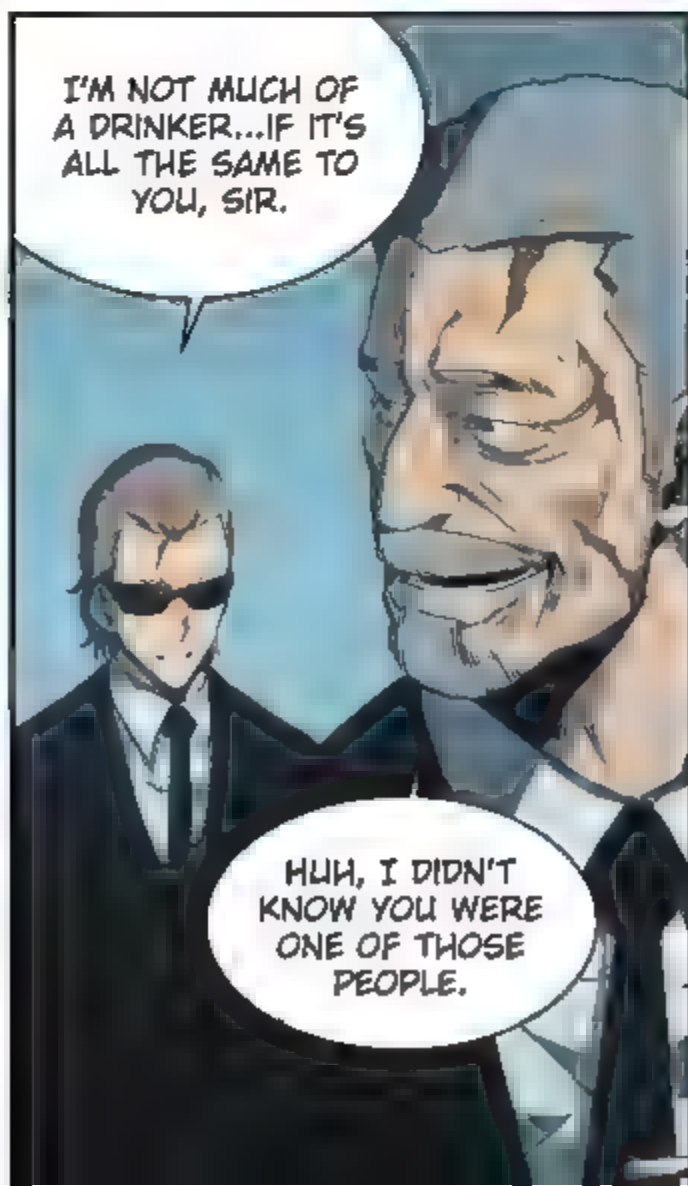




BUT YOU
HAVE THAT
MEETING WITH THE
MINISTERS...

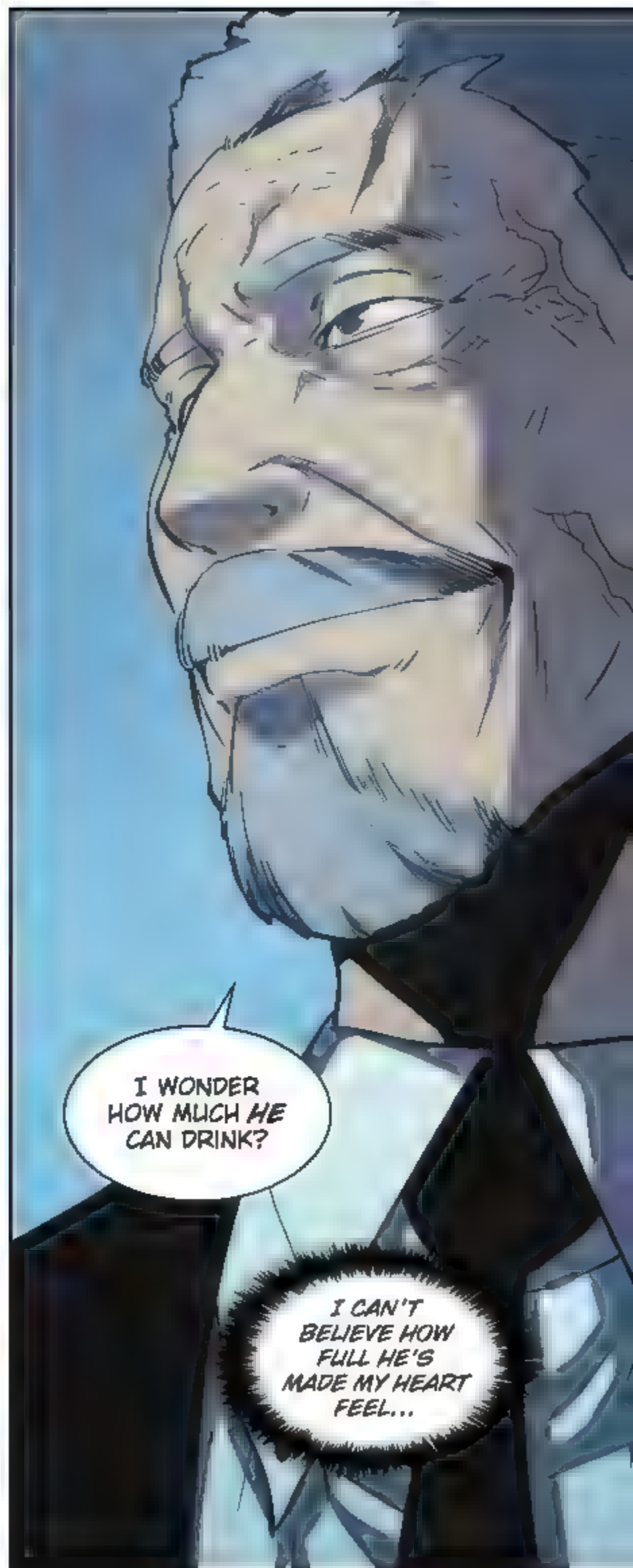
I DON'T
WANT TO WASTE
ANY ENERGY ON
THOSE OLD FARTS
TODAY.

CARE TO
JOIN ME FOR
A DRINK?



I'M NOT MUCH OF
A DRINKER...IF IT'S
ALL THE SAME TO
YOU, SIR.

HUH, I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU WERE
ONE OF THOSE
PEOPLE.

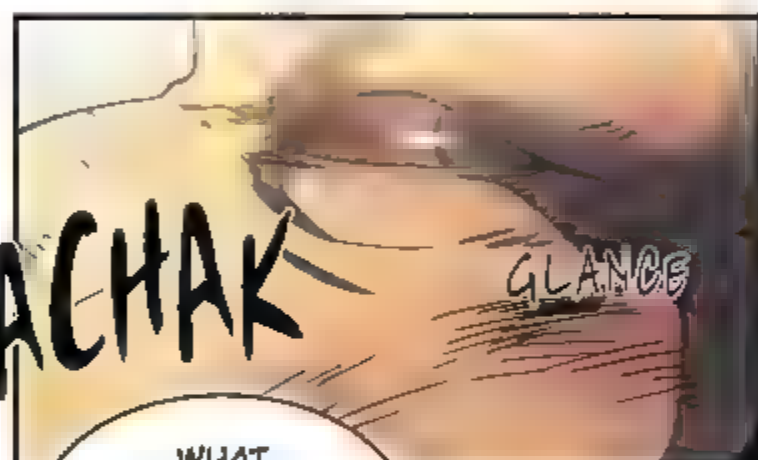
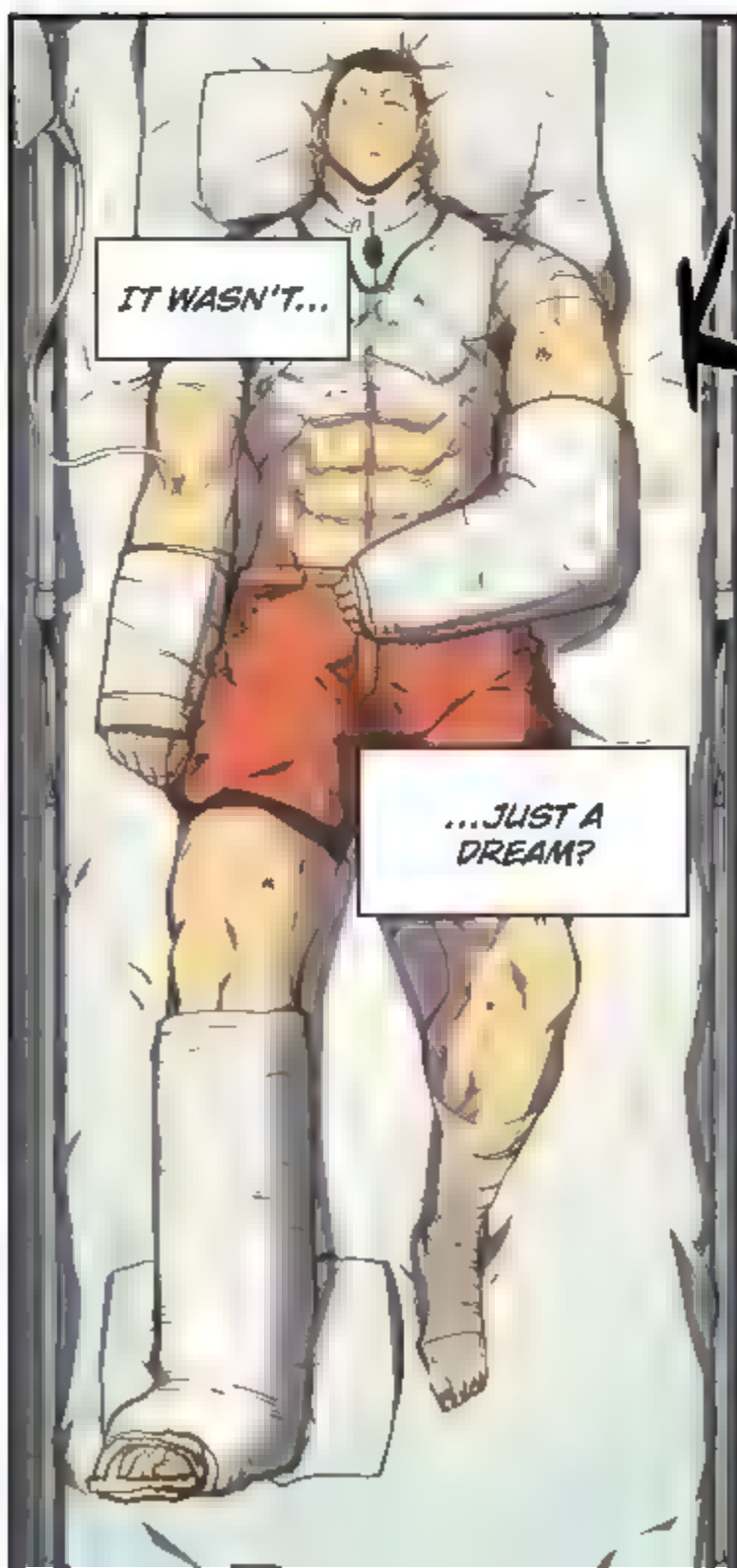


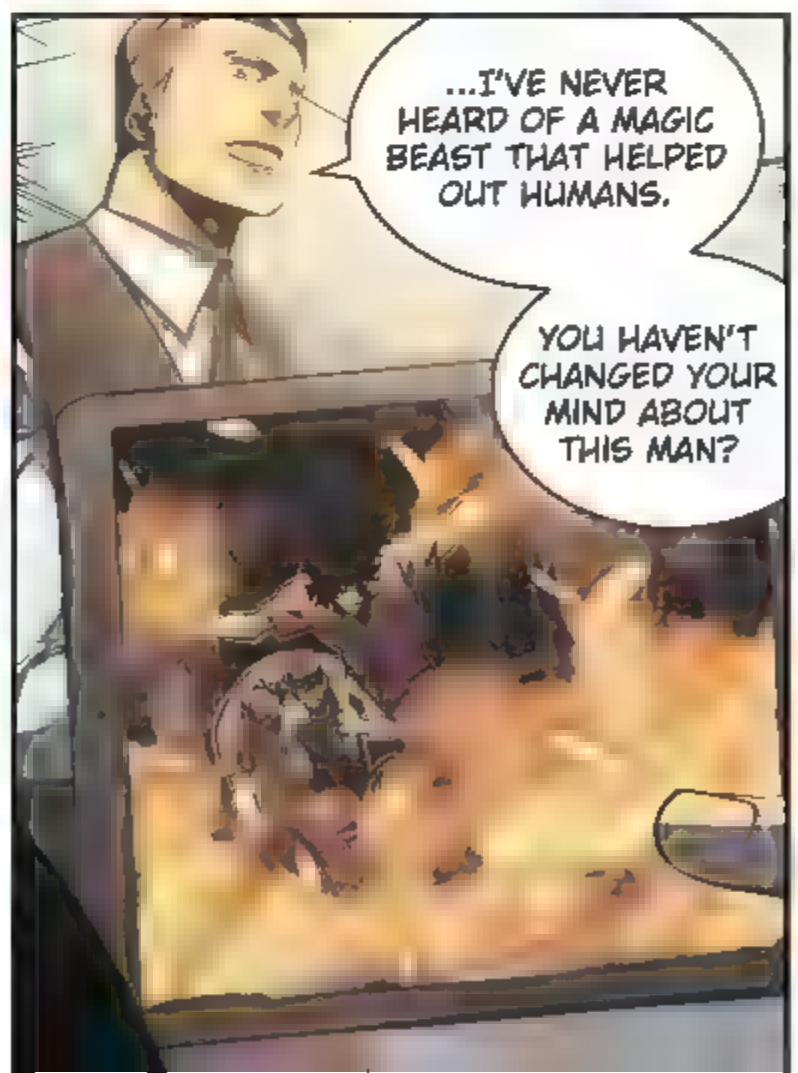
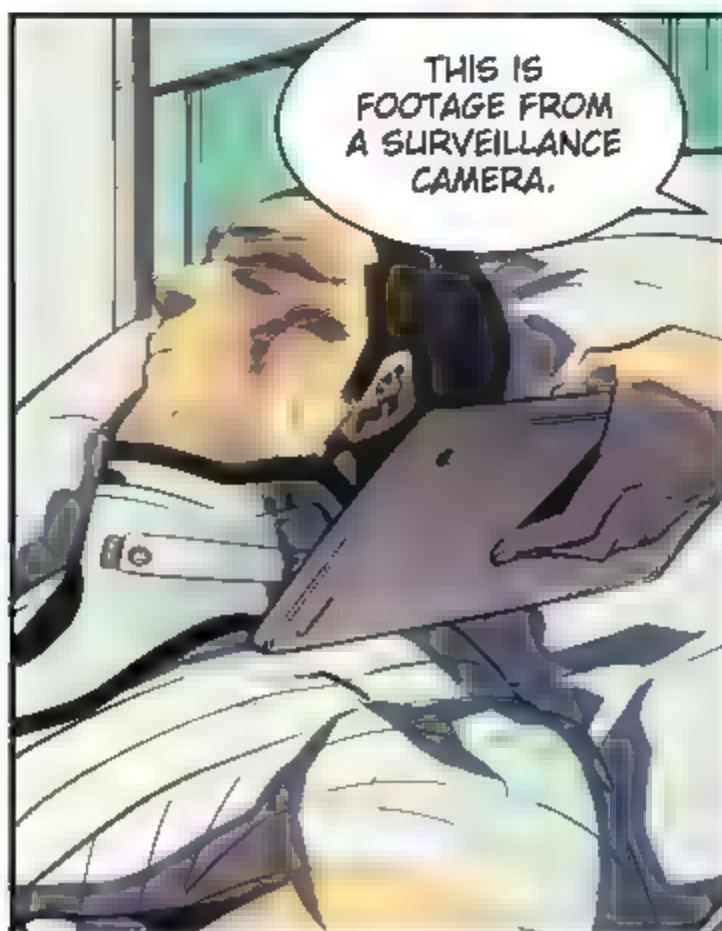
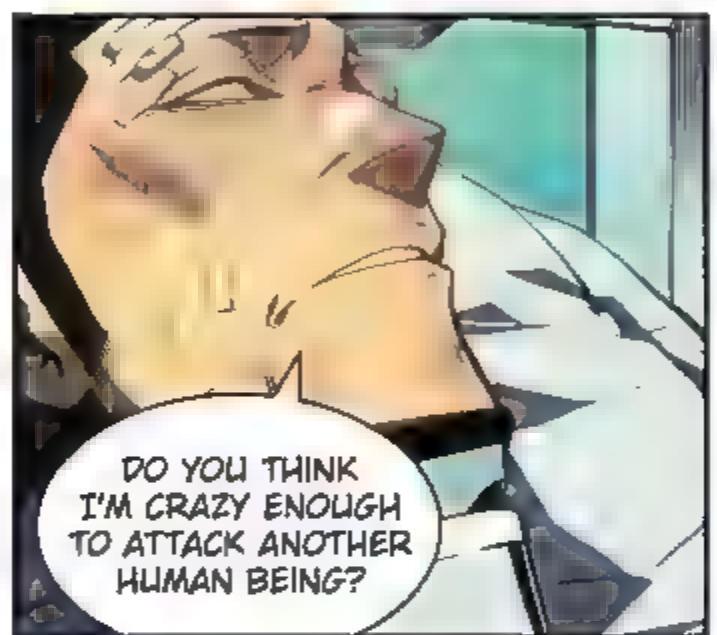
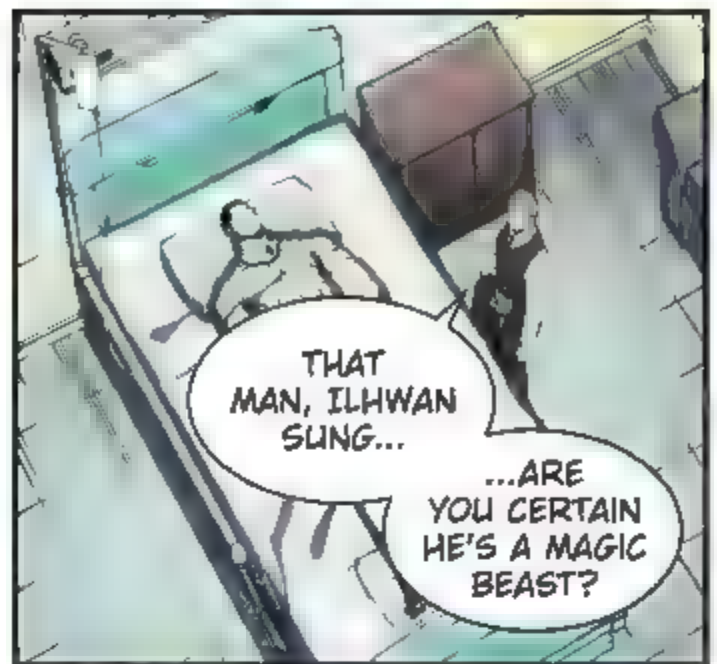
I WONDER
HOW MUCH *HE*
CAN DRINK?

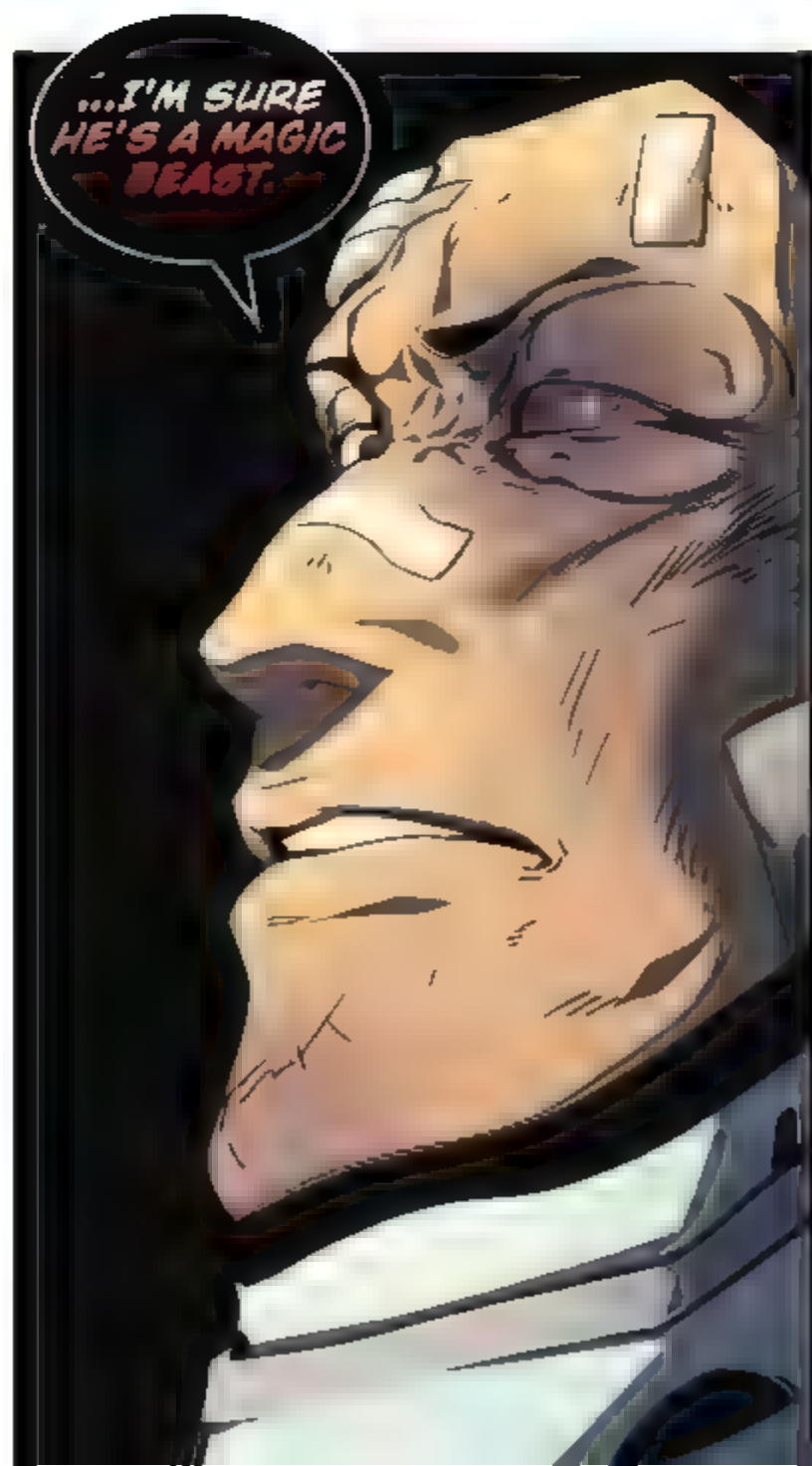
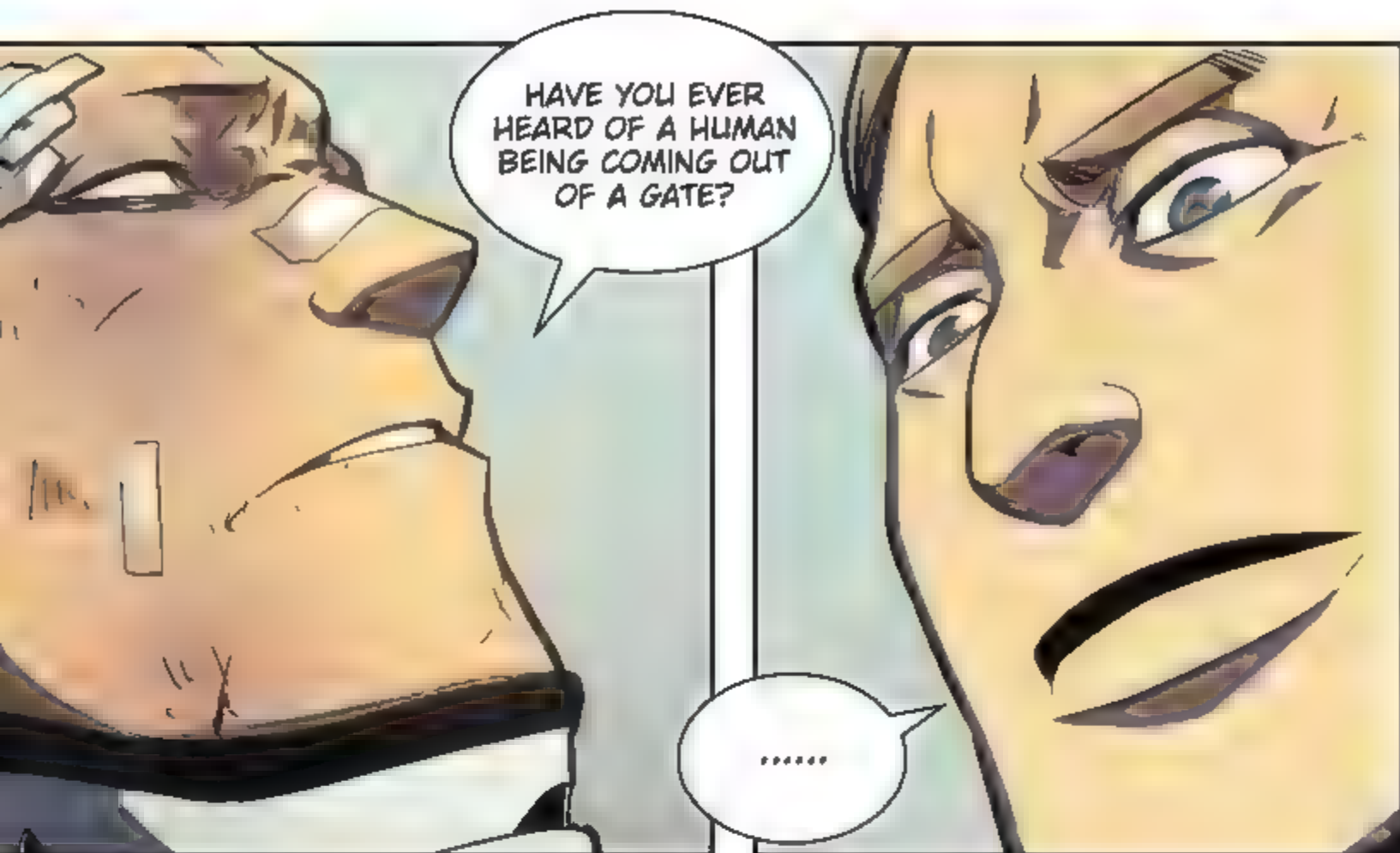
I CAN'T
BELIEVE HOW
FULL HE'S
MADE MY HEART
FEEL...

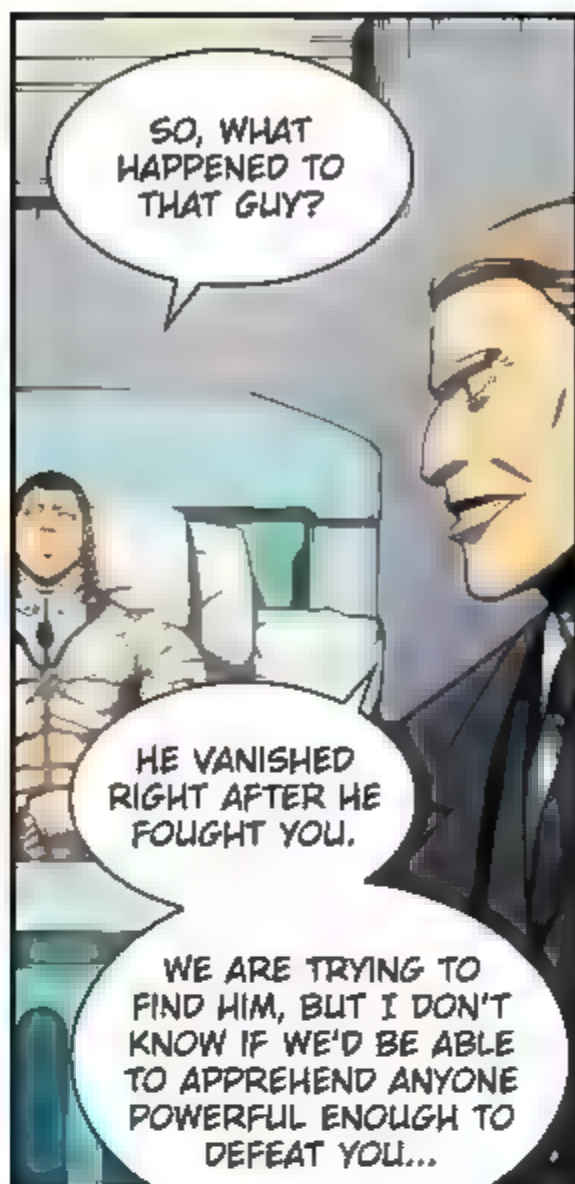








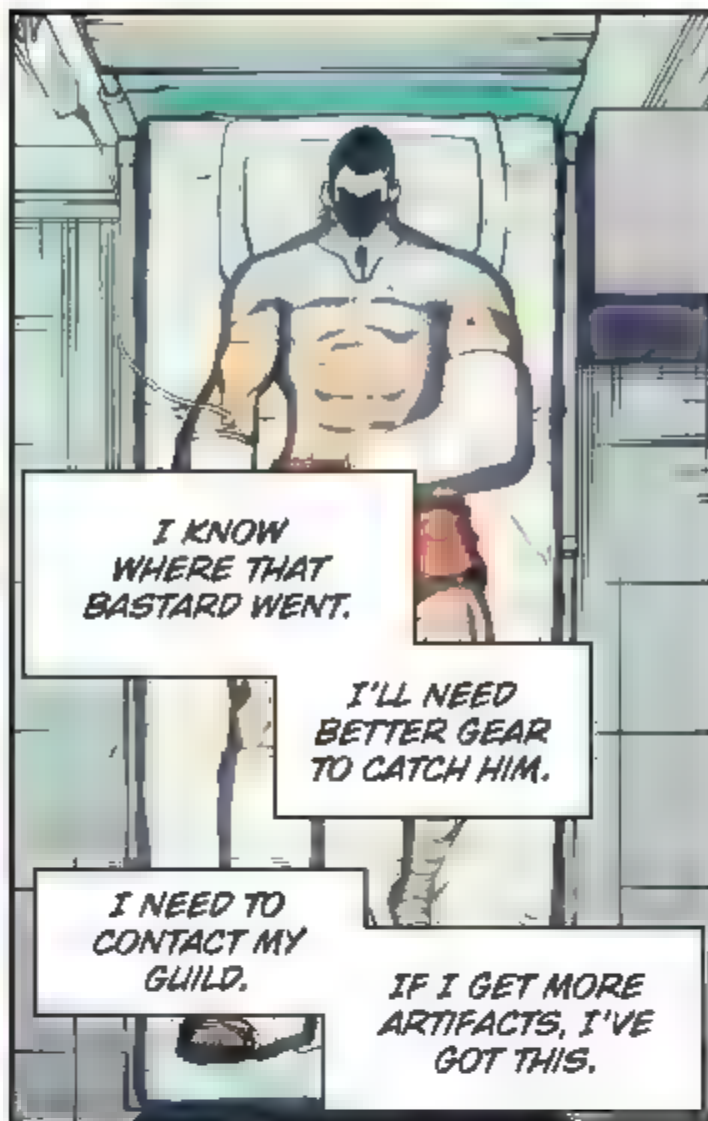






I WON'T BE
ABLE TO CLOSE MY
EYES EVEN WHEN
I'M DEAD...?

HOW DARE HE...
THREATEN ME?



I KNOW
WHERE THAT
BASTARD WENT.

I'LL NEED
BETTER GEAR
TO CATCH HIM.

I NEED TO
CONTACT MY
GUILD.

IF I GET MORE
ARTIFACTS, I'VE
GOT THIS.



ONCE I GET
BETTER...

...I'LL
TEAR THAT
BASTARD
APART.

**HUNTER
AUCTIONS—**

THEY ARE ONLINE AND
IN-PERSON MARKETS
WHERE HUNTERS CAN
SELL OR AUCTION OFF
INGREDIENTS OR ITEMS
ACQUIRED DURING RAIDS.

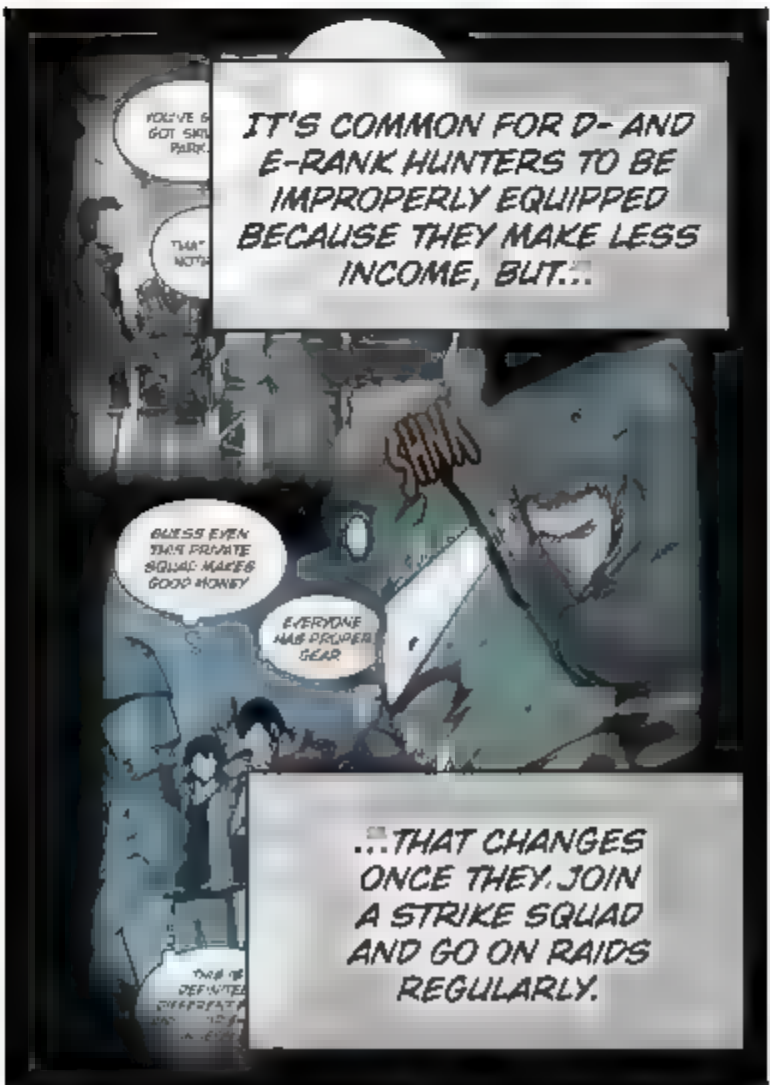


**HUNTERS IN
KOREA NUMBER
IN THE TENS OF
THOUSANDS.**

**AUCTIONS ARE
ALSO CONVENIENT
FOR BUYING AND
SELLING GEAR.**

**GEAR IS LIFE
FOR HUNTERS.**

**IT GOES WITHOUT
SAYING THAT THE
BETTER THE GEAR,
THE SAFER THE
FIGHTS.**



**IT'S COMMON FOR D- AND
E-RANK HUNTERS TO BE
IMPROPERLY EQUIPPED
BECAUSE THEY MAKE LESS
INCOME, BUT...**

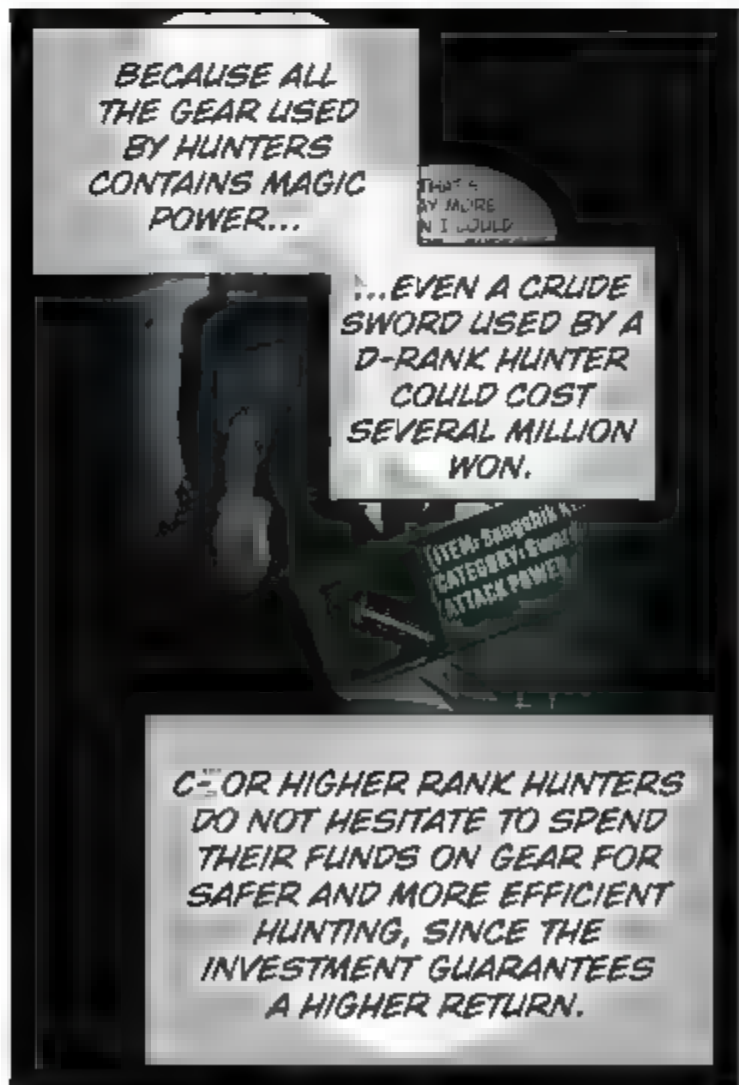
YOU'VE GOT SKILL
PARTY.

THAT
NOTES

GUESS EVEN
THIS PRIVATE
SQUAD MAKES
GOOD MONEY

EVERYONE
HAS PROPER
GEAR

**...THAT CHANGES
ONCE THEY JOIN
A STRIKE SQUAD
AND GO ON RAIDS
REGULARLY.**



**BECAUSE ALL
THE GEAR USED
BY HUNTERS
CONTAINS MAGIC
POWER...**

THAT'S
MY MORE
IN I WOULD
RAISE

**...EVEN A CRUDE
SWORD USED BY A
D-RANK HUNTER
COULD COST
SEVERAL MILLION
WON.**

ITEM: Dragonik K...
CATEGORY: Sword
ATTACK POWER

**C- OR HIGHER RANK HUNTERS
DO NOT HESITATE TO SPEND
THEIR FUNDS ON GEAR FOR
SAFER AND MORE EFFICIENT
HUNTING, SINCE THE
INVESTMENT GUARANTEES
A HIGHER RETURN.**

NATURALLY, THE GEAR USED BY HIGH-RANK HUNTERS COULD COST SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION TO SEVERAL BILLION WON.

WHY IS EVERYTHING SO EXPENSIVE?

THE PRICE OF GOOD GEAR IS SO HIGH THAT THE AVERAGE HUNTER, EVEN WITH ALL OF THEIR ASSETS, IS PRICED OUT.

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, DO I?

I THOUGHT I'D SAVED UP, BUT...

THE HIGHER THE FLOOR IN THE DEMON'S CASTLE, THE MORE POWERFUL THE FIRE ATTACKS.

THE ENTIRE ENVIRONMENT IS ON FIRE. PROTECTIVE GEAR IS A MUST.

SHOULD I JUST BUY FROM THE SYSTEM SHOP?

BUT THERE'S NOTHING GOOD IN THERE...

I HAVE TO SELL THE SPHERE OF AVARICE IF I WANT TO BUY GEAR, DON'T I?

Sphere of Avarice
Acquisition Difficulty: A
Category: Magic tool
Sphere made from the solidified blood of archdemon Vulcan. Greatly increases magic effects and causes more damage.
-BUFF: Appetite for Destruction: Doubles damage caused by magic.

AT LEAST I'M LUCKY I HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL.

EVEN THE BEST SPHERE ONLY ADDS 20% TO 30% OF POWER.

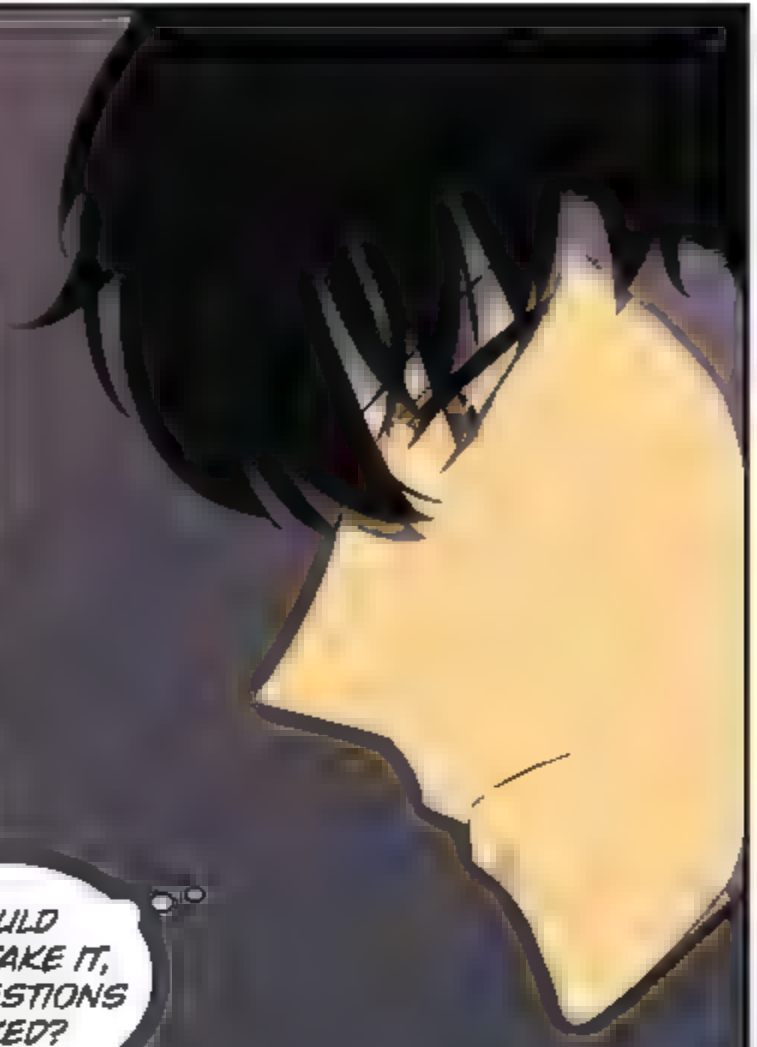
SINCE THIS SPHERE CAN DOUBLE THE MAGIC DAMAGE, I BET I CAN GET A PRETTY HIGH PRICE.

NO NEED TO
RESORT TO THE
BLACK MARKET SINCE
THERE'S NOTHING
SKETCHY ABOUT
HOW I GOT IT...

...BUT THE
PROBLEM IS
EXPLAINING THAT
TO PEOPLE...

AN E-RANK
HUNTER OFFERING
AN INCREDIBLE ITEM
THAT SHOULDN'T
EVEN EXIST?

WOULD
THEY TAKE IT,
NO QUESTIONS
ASKED?



IT'LL TAKE SOME
TIME TO GET THE NEW
S-RANK HUNTER'S
LICENSE.

CLICK

CLICK

PEOPLE
WOULDN'T BE SO
SUSPICIOUS IF I AT
LEAST HAD A
RECORD OF GOING
INTO AN A-RANK
DUNGEON.

CLICK CLICK

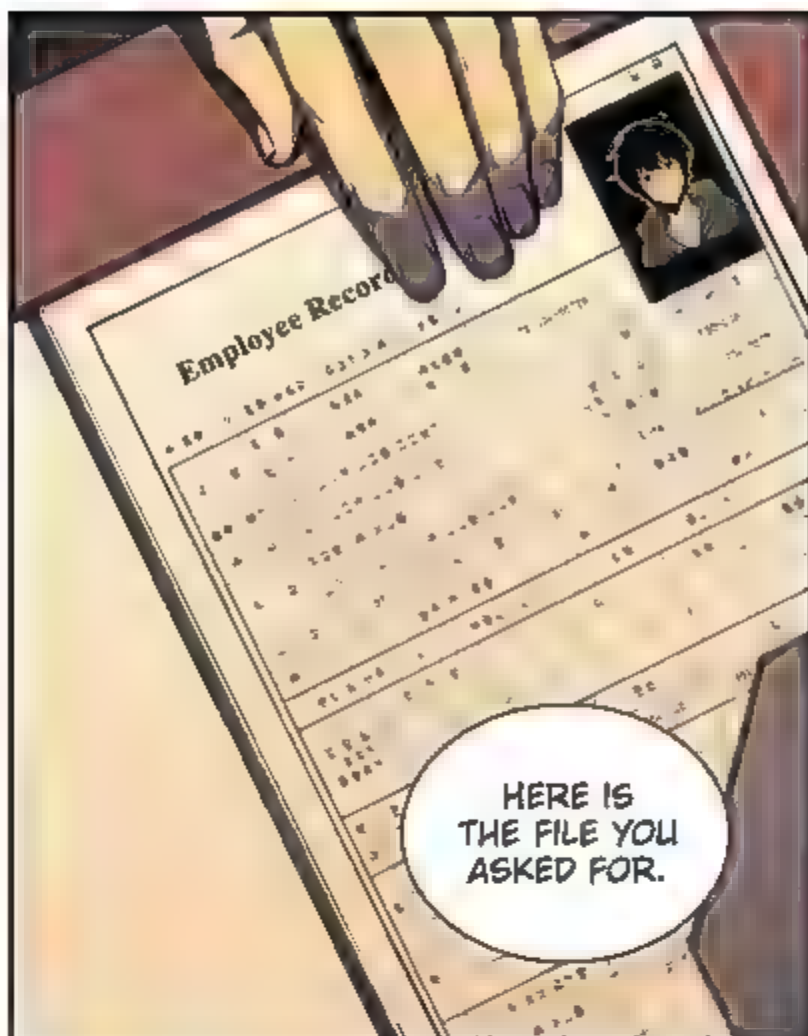
CLICK

BUT NO
STRIKE SQUAD
THAT DOES HIGH-
RANK RAIDS WOULD
LET ME JOIN
THEM...

...HUH?

THERE'S A
POSTING.





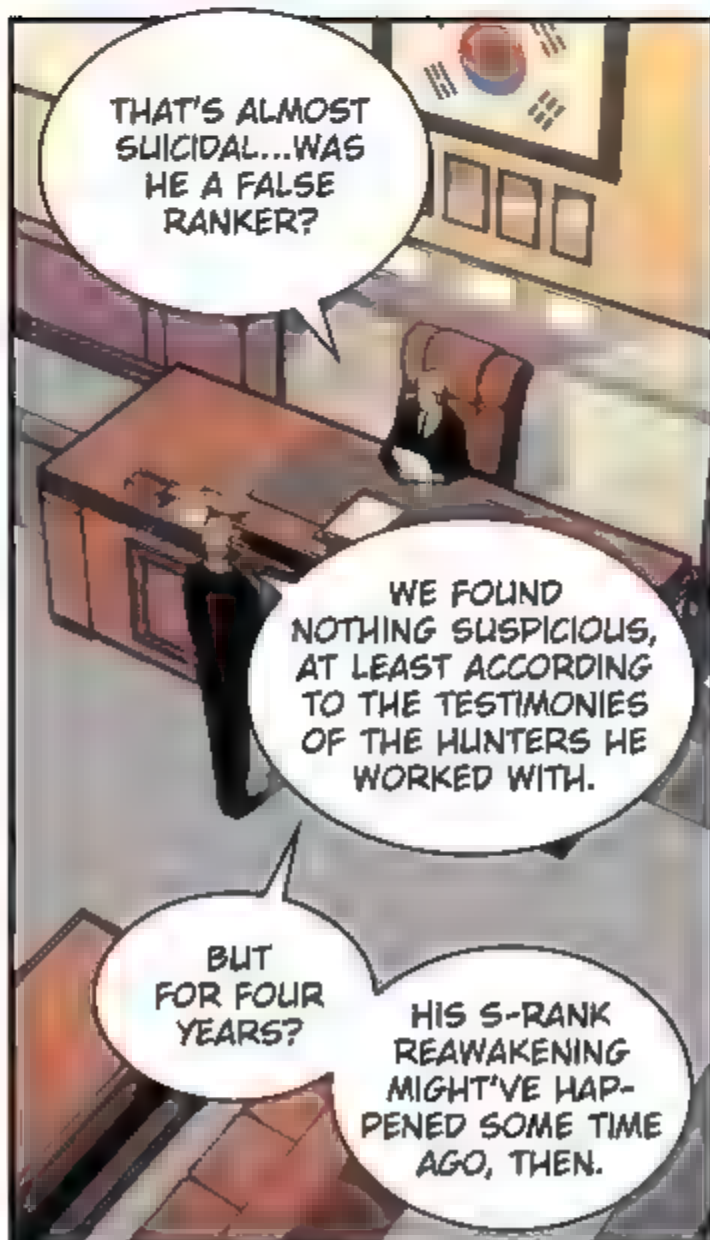
HERE IS
THE FILE YOU
ASKED FOR.



THIS I.D. PHOTO
WAS TAKEN FOUR
YEARS AGO?

HUNTER
SUNG LOOKED
QUITE DIFFERENT
AND MUCH
YOUNGER.

THIS RECORD
COVERS ALL OF
HIS FOUR YEARS
AS ONE OF THE
LOWEST E-RANK
HUNTERS.

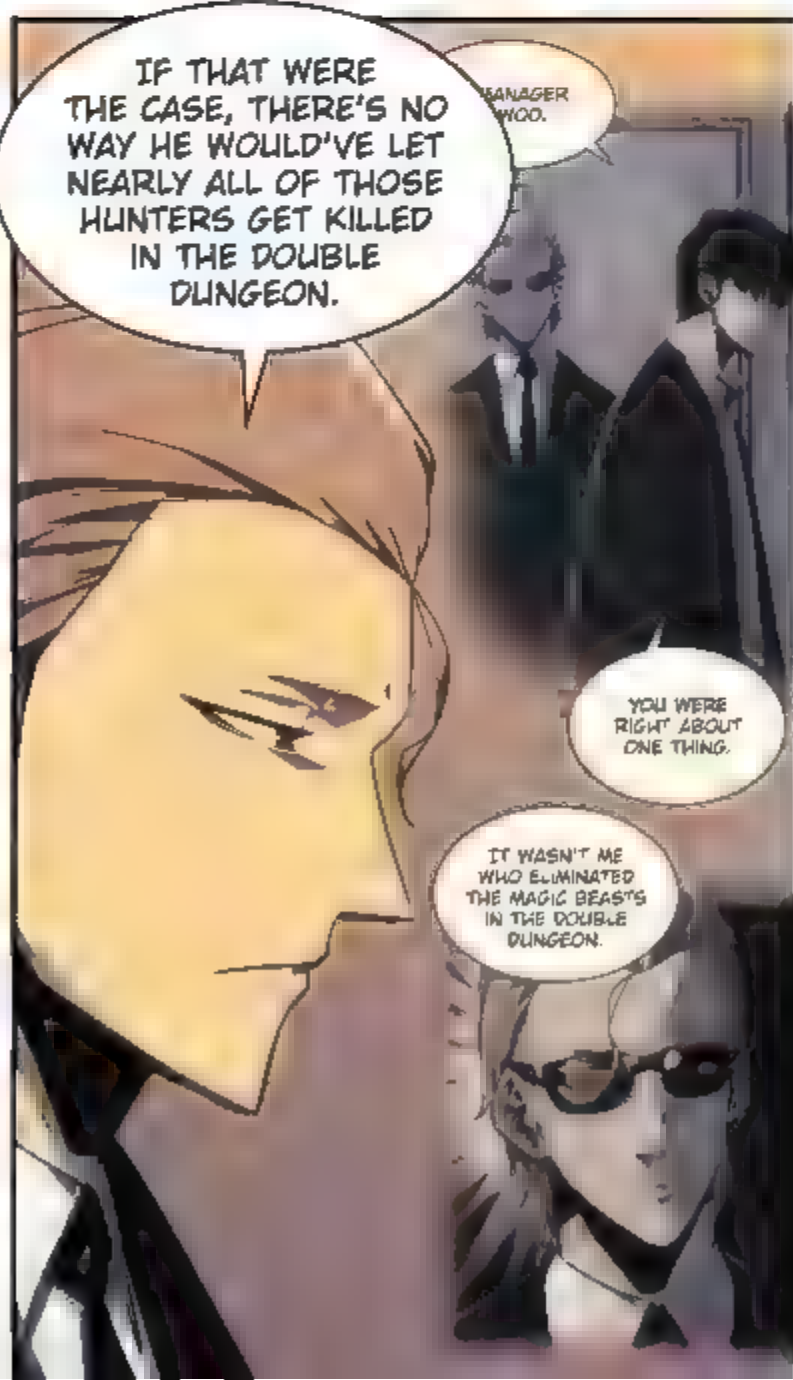


THAT'S ALMOST
SUICIDAL...WAS
HE A FALSE
RANKER?

WE FOUND
NOTHING SUSPICIOUS,
AT LEAST ACCORDING
TO THE TESTIMONIES
OF THE HUNTERS HE
WORKED WITH.

BUT
FOR FOUR
YEARS?

HIS S-RANK
REAWAKENING
MIGHT'VE HAP-
PENED SOME TIME
AGO, THEN.

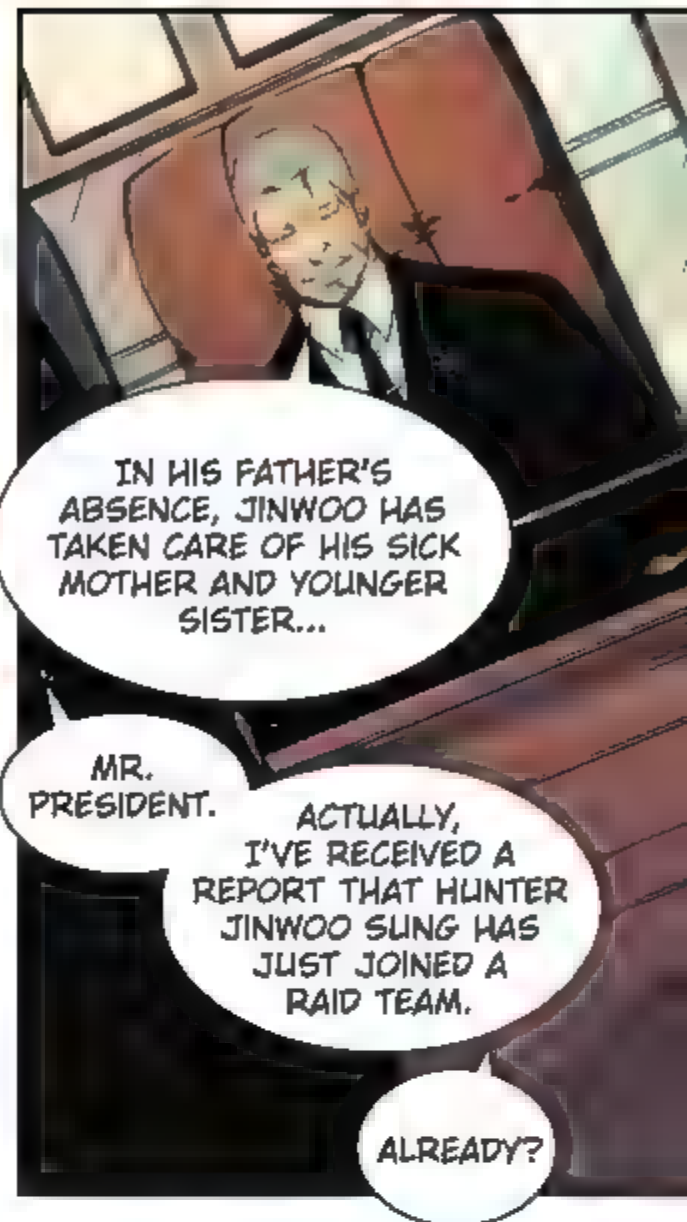
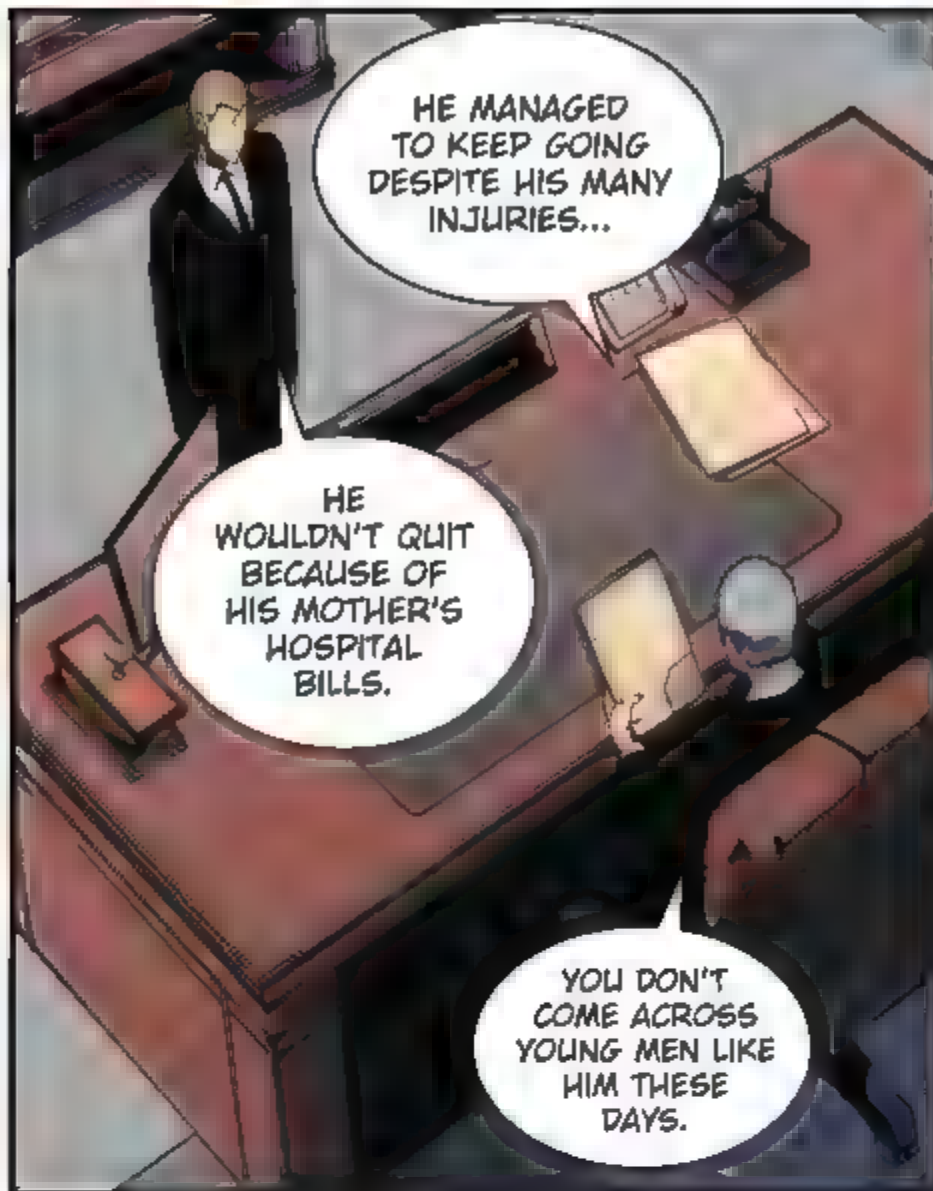


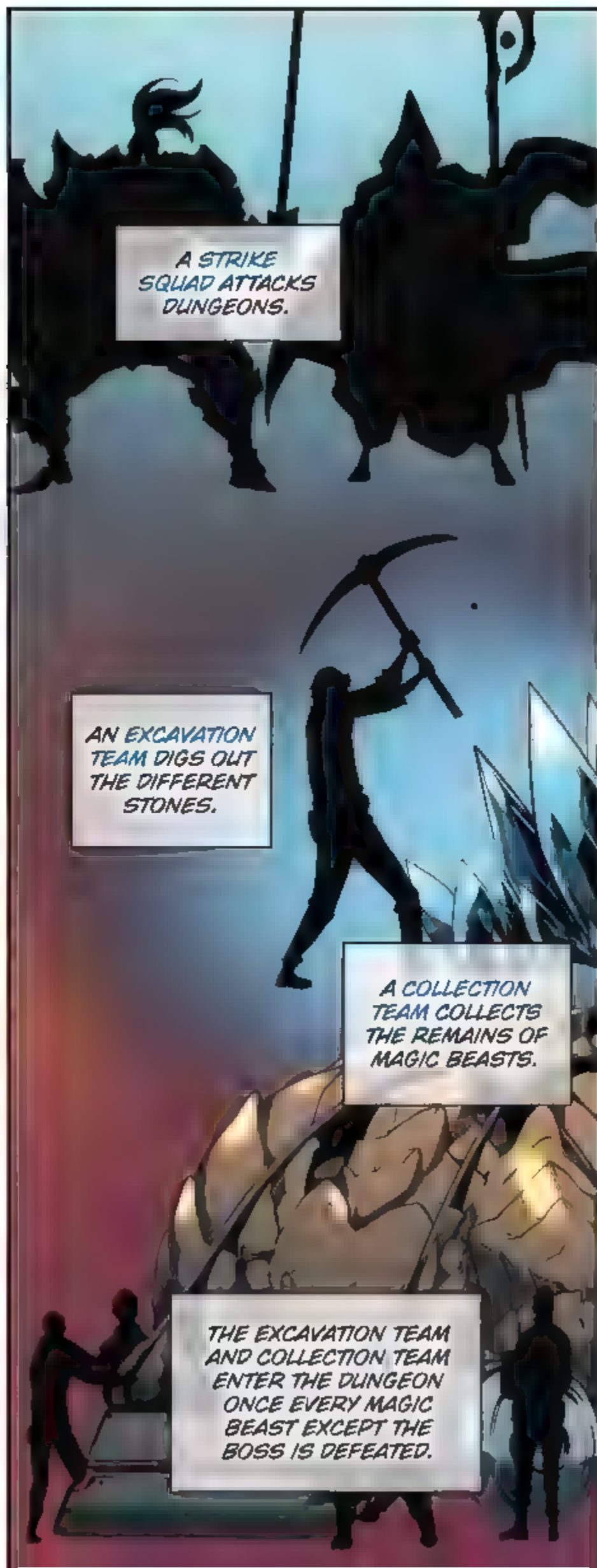
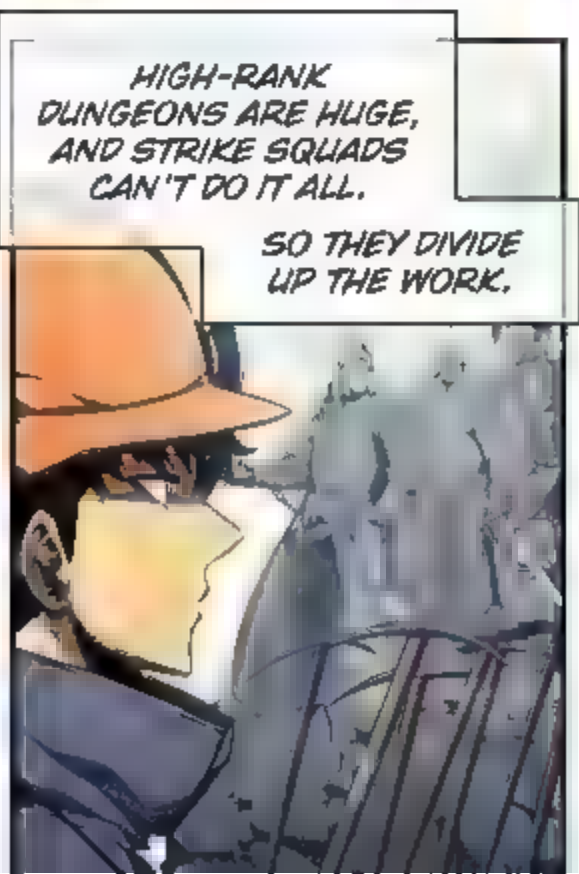
IF THAT WERE
THE CASE, THERE'S NO
WAY HE WOULD'VE LET
NEARLY ALL OF THOSE
HUNTERS GET KILLED
IN THE DOUBLE
DUNGEON.

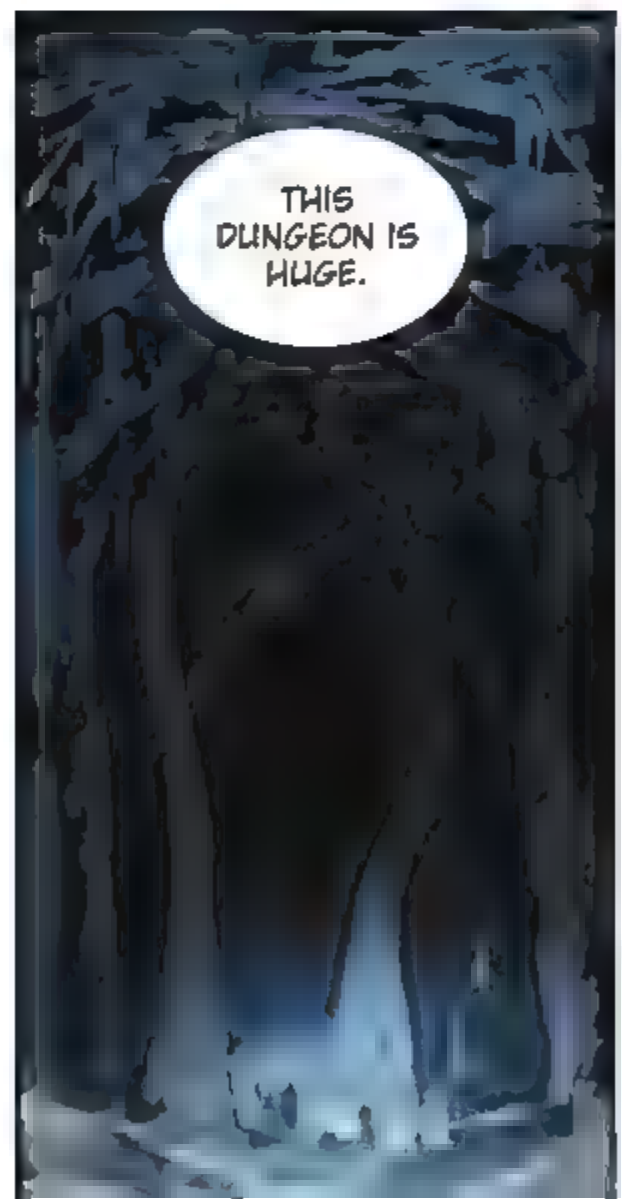
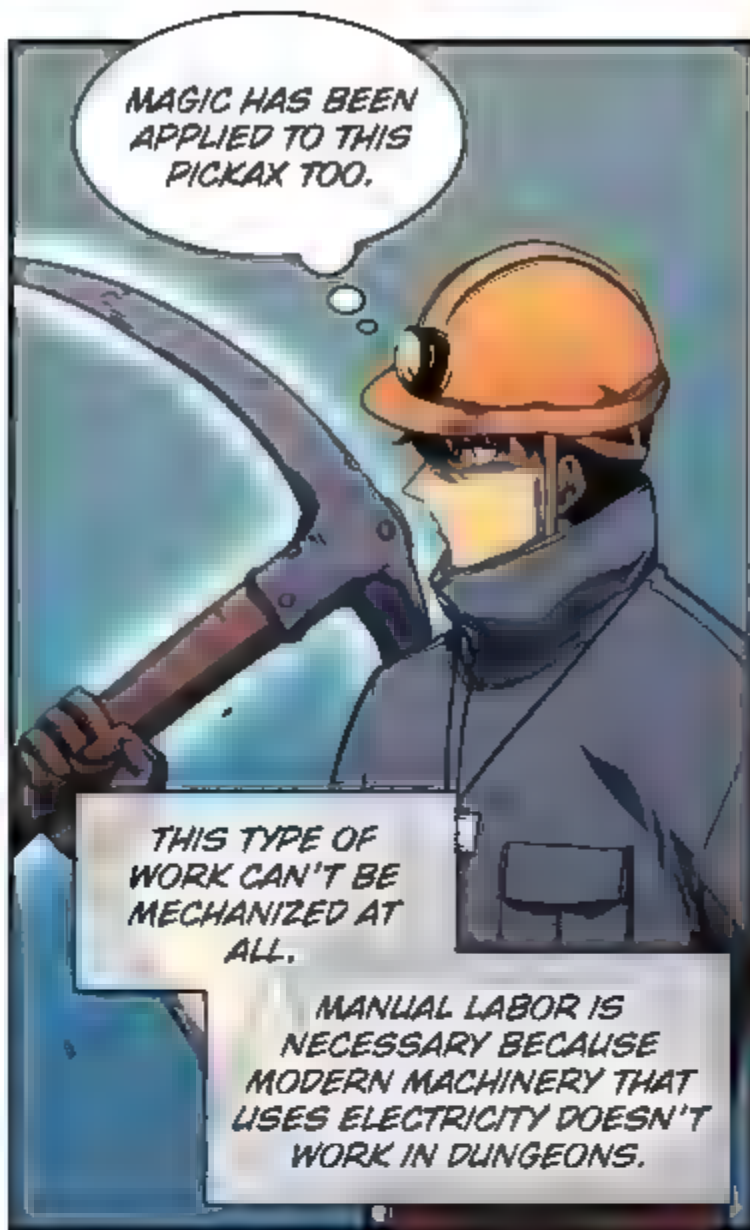
MANAGER
WOO.

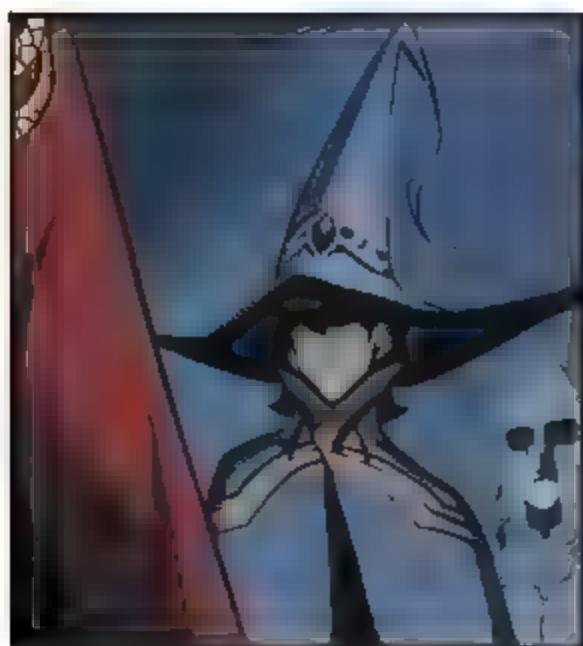
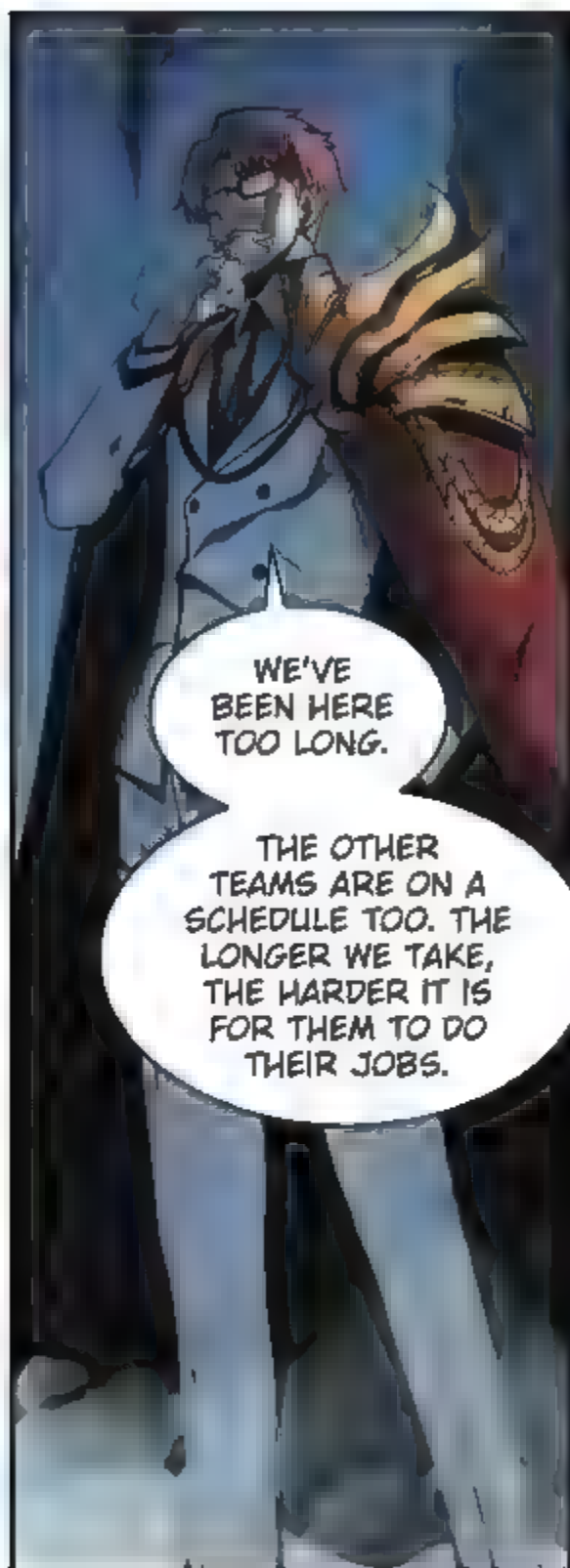
YOU WERE
RIGHT ABOUT
ONE THING.

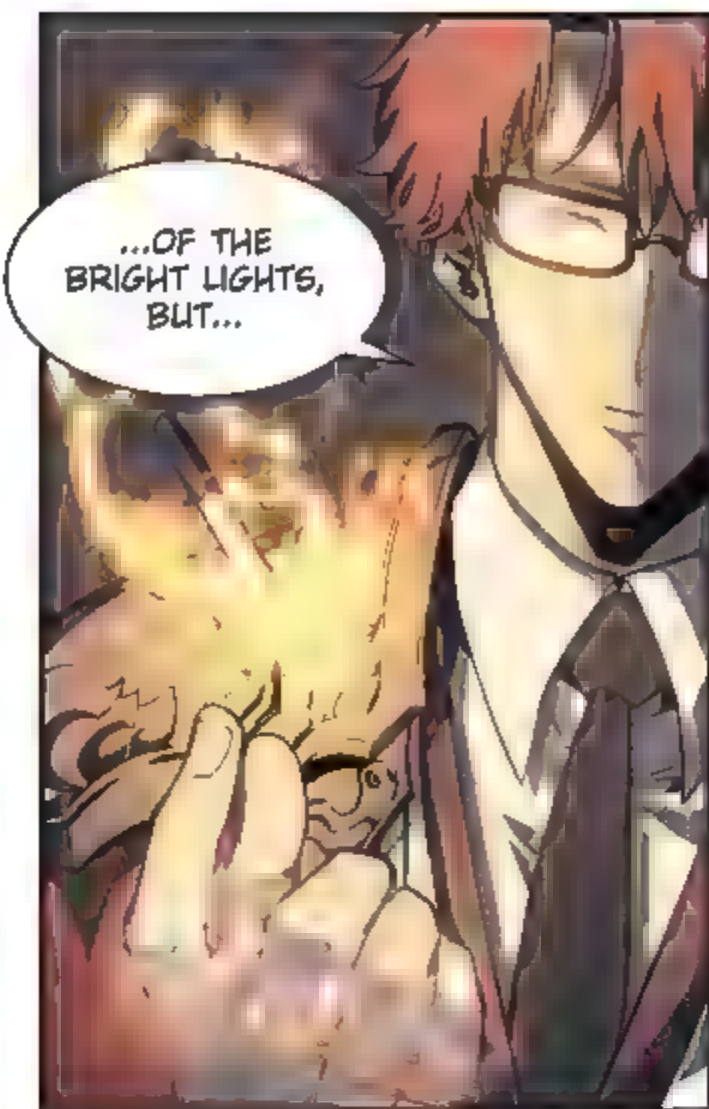
IT WASN'T ME
WHO ELIMINATED
THE MAGIC BEASTS
IN THE DOUBLE
DUNGEON.

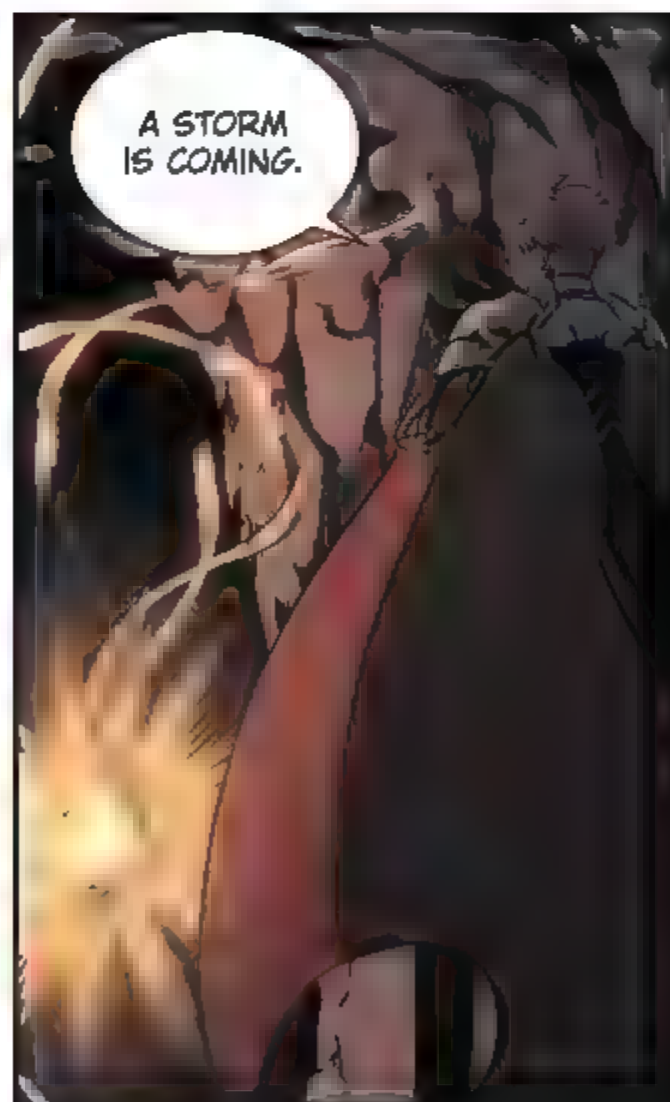




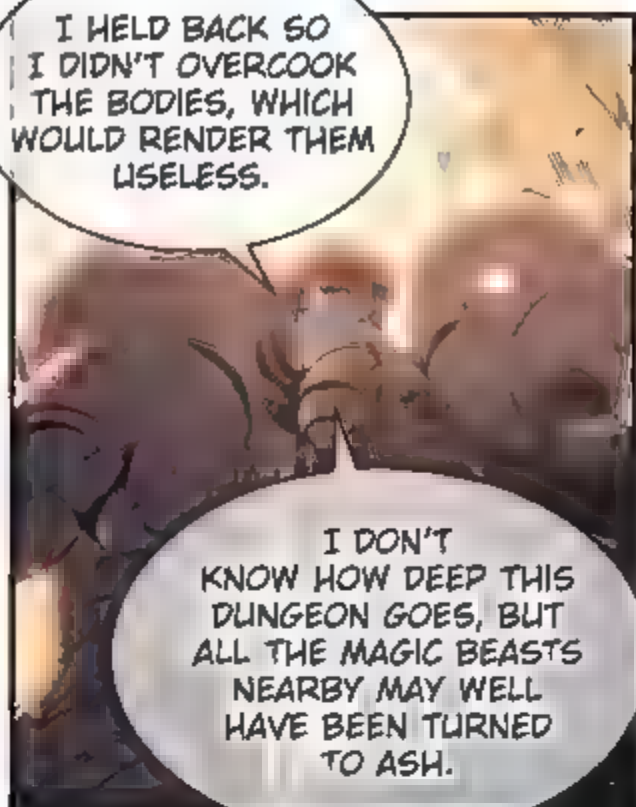












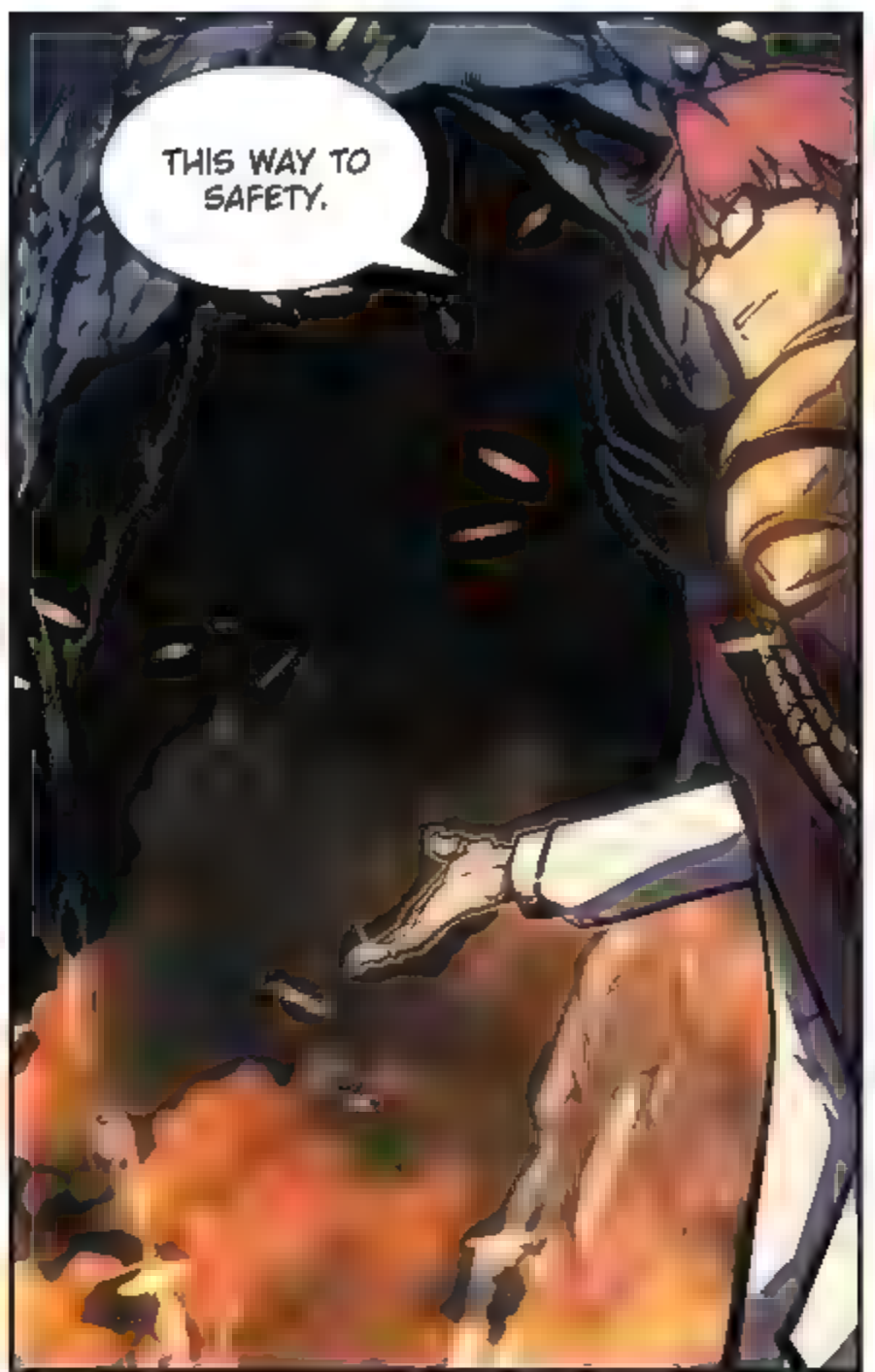
I HELD BACK SO
I DIDN'T OVERCOOK
THE BODIES, WHICH
WOULD RENDER THEM
USELESS.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW DEEP THIS
DUNGEON GOES, BUT
ALL THE MAGIC BEASTS
NEARBY MAY WELL
HAVE BEEN TURNED
TO ASH.

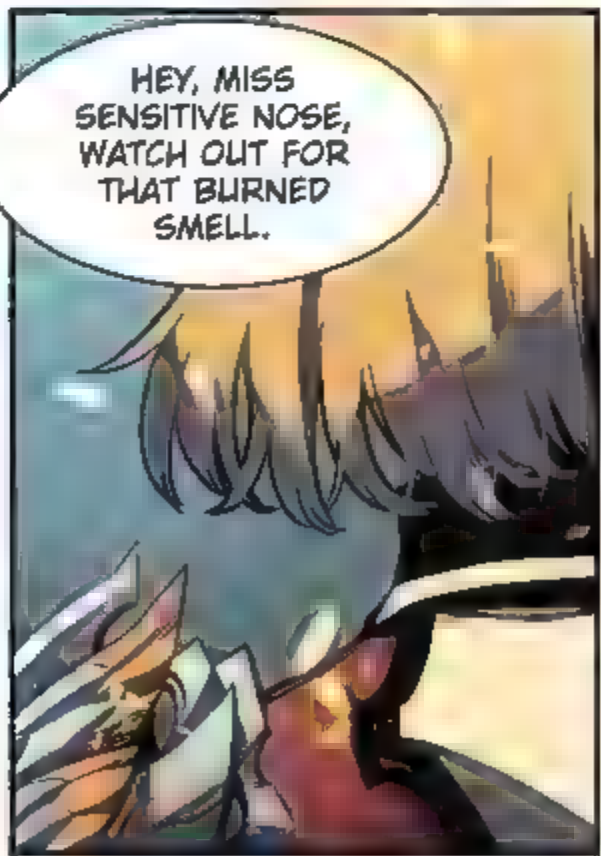


HE'S
AMAZING...
JUST AS I
EXPECTED.

IMPRESSIVE
EVERY TIME!



THIS WAY TO
SAFETY.



HEY, MISS
SENSITIVE NOSE,
WATCH OUT FOR
THAT BURNED
SMELL.



THE STRIKE
SQUAD ISN'T
DONE YET?

YOU TOLD
ME THEY WERE!
HOW MANY
MINUTES AGO
WAS THAT?





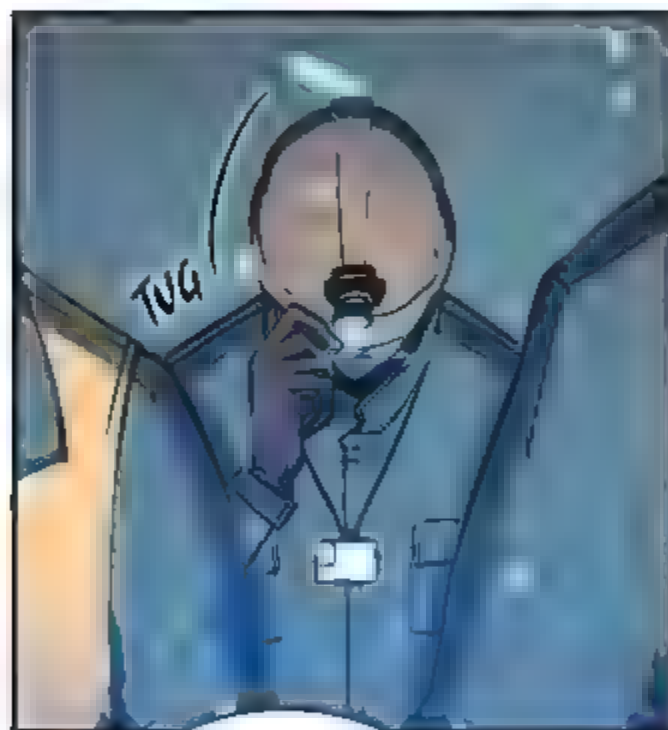
THESE
PEOPLE
ARE...

...THE BEST
RAID TEAM IN
KOREA.

THE
HUNTERS!

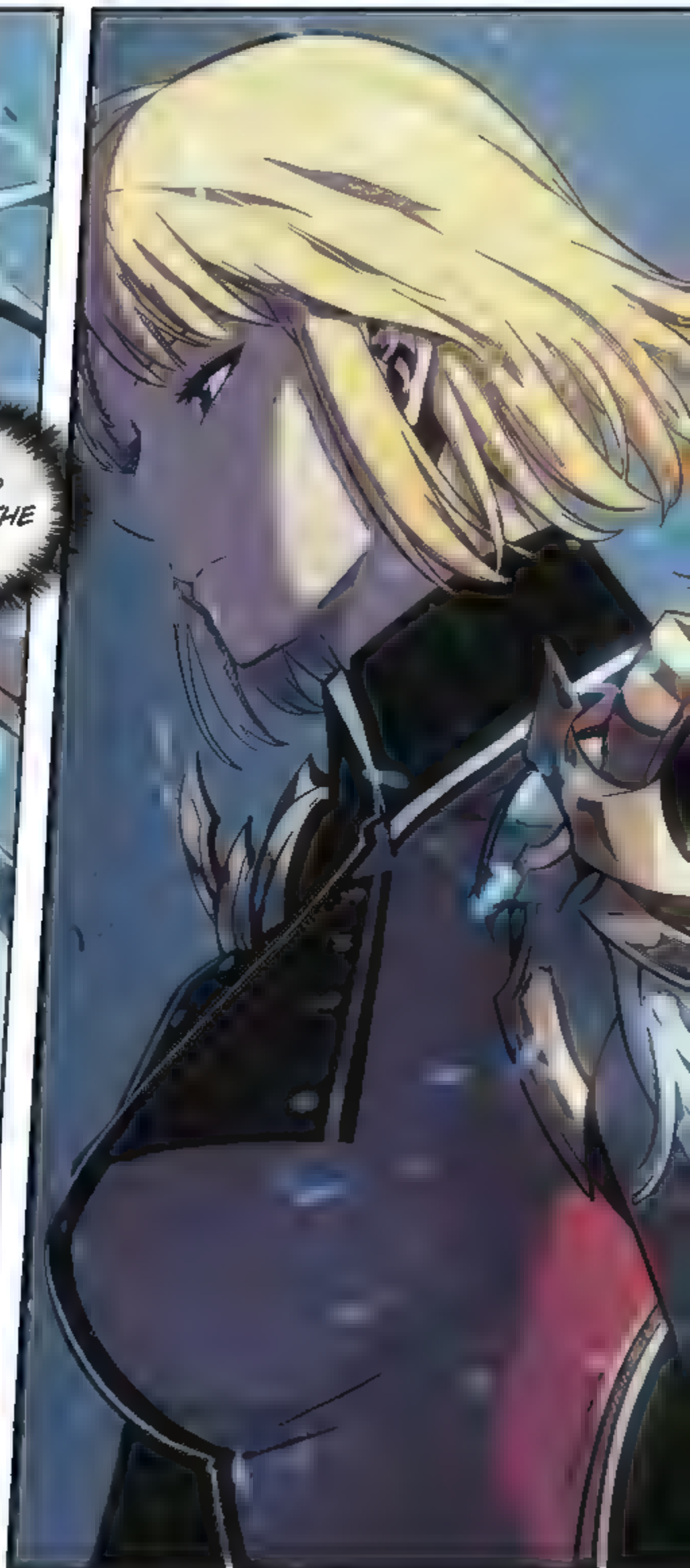


...JONGIN
CHOI.



NUMBER TWO
IS COMING OUT
WITH THEM.





A close-up of a young woman with short, layered purple hair and green eyes. She has a slight blush on her cheeks and is wearing a dark purple high-collared jacket with white piping and buttons.

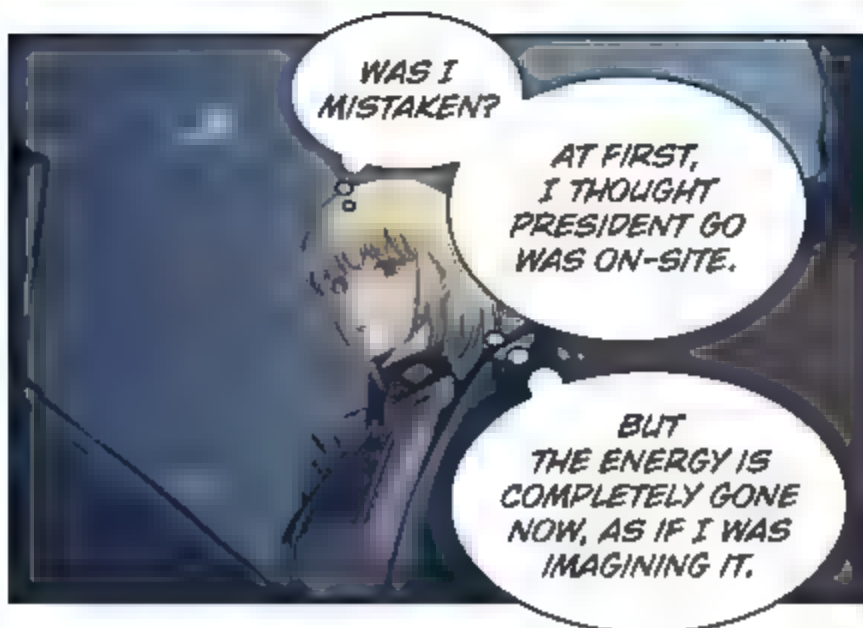
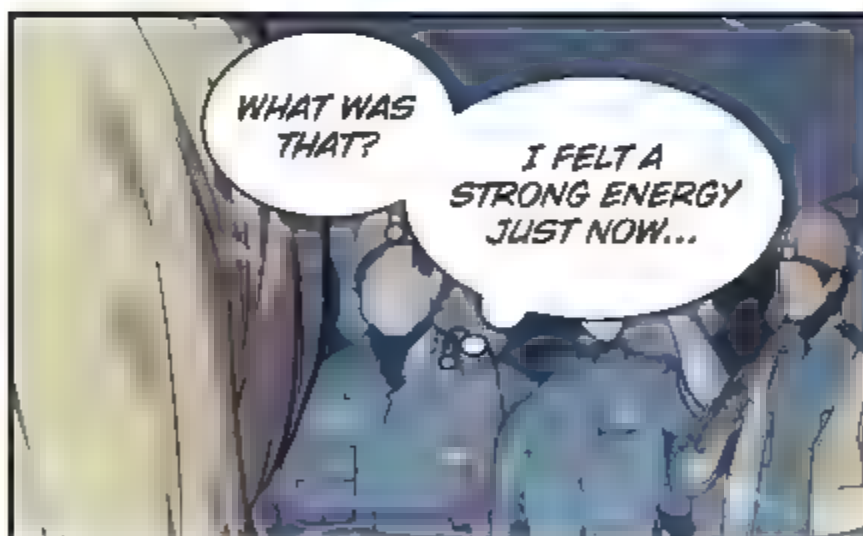
**HAEIN CHA,
S-RANK
HUNTER!**

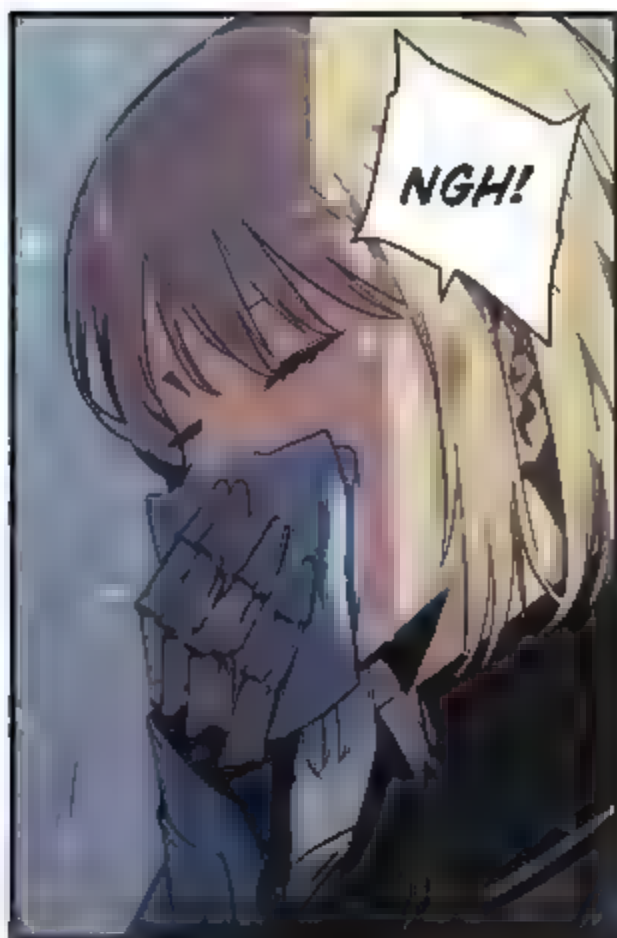
**NO OTHER
WOMAN IN ALL OF
KOREA RADIATES
THIS MUCH
ENERGY.**

A full-body shot of the same woman standing in a city. She is wearing a dark purple, form-fitting tactical suit with a high collar, white piping, and a long black tail-like appendage on her right side. She has a confident, slightly smug expression.

**SHE'S AT
LEAST THE SAME
POWER LEVEL AS
JONGIN.**

**POSSIBLY EVEN
HIGHER.**





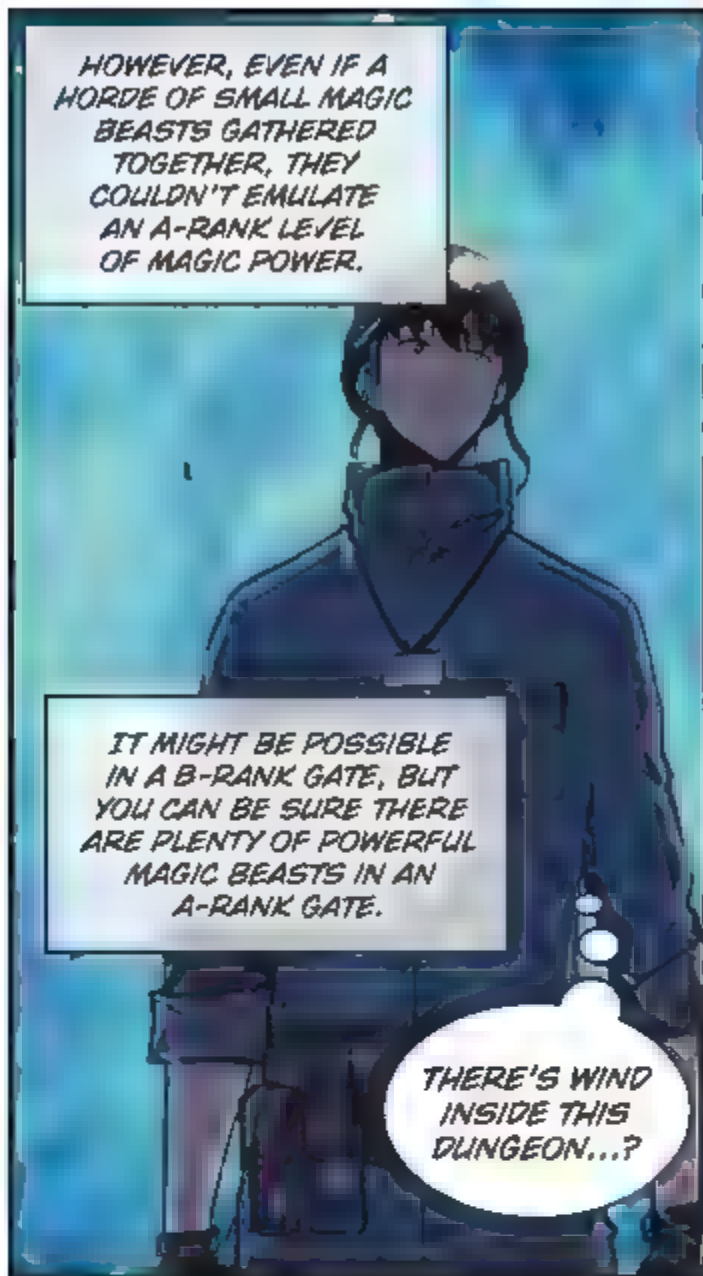
THE INSIDE OF AN A-RANK DUNGEON IS HUGE.

THE RANK OF A DUNGEON IS DETERMINED BY THE WAVES OF MAGIC POWER MEASURED FROM OUTSIDE, NOT BY THE RANK OF THE MAGIC BEASTS INSIDE.

THE SIZE OF THE DUNGEON HAS A DIRECT CORRELATION TO THE AMOUNT OF MAGIC POWER DETECTED.

THE AMOUNT OF MAGIC POWER AND THE SIZE OF THE DUNGEON ARE THE DETERMINING FACTORS IN GIVING A GATE A HIGHER RANK.

IF THERE IS A HIGH NUMBER OF LOW-LEVEL MAGIC BEASTS, QUITE A HIGH LEVEL OF MAGIC POWER WILL BE DETECTABLE.



HOWEVER, EVEN IF A HORDE OF SMALL MAGIC BEASTS GATHERED TOGETHER, THEY COULDN'T EMULATE AN A-RANK LEVEL OF MAGIC POWER.

IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN A B-RANK GATE, BUT YOU CAN BE SURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF POWERFUL MAGIC BEASTS IN AN A-RANK GATE.

THERE'S WIND INSIDE THIS DUNGEON...?



IT'S NOT JUST ANY WIND.

IT'S A WAVE OF MAGIC POWER.

IT'S THE MAGIC POWER OF THE A-RANK DUNGEON BOSS.



DID YOU HEAR?

TODAY'S NEWBIE IS AN E-RANK.



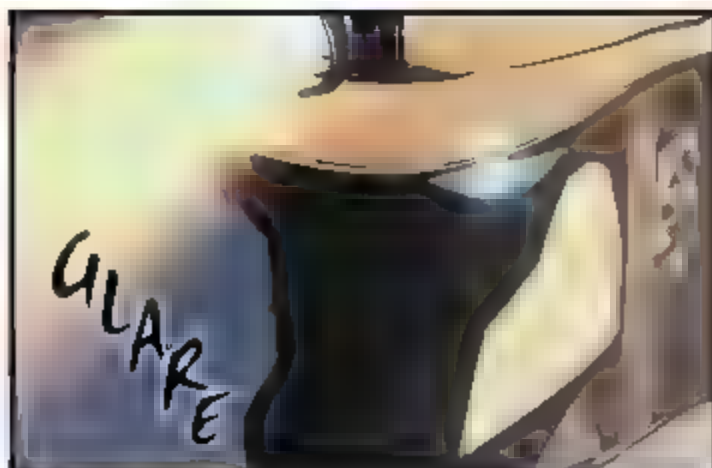
WHAT? AN E-RANK?

THAT'S RIGHT.

COME ON, WHAT WAS THE FOREMAN THINKING?

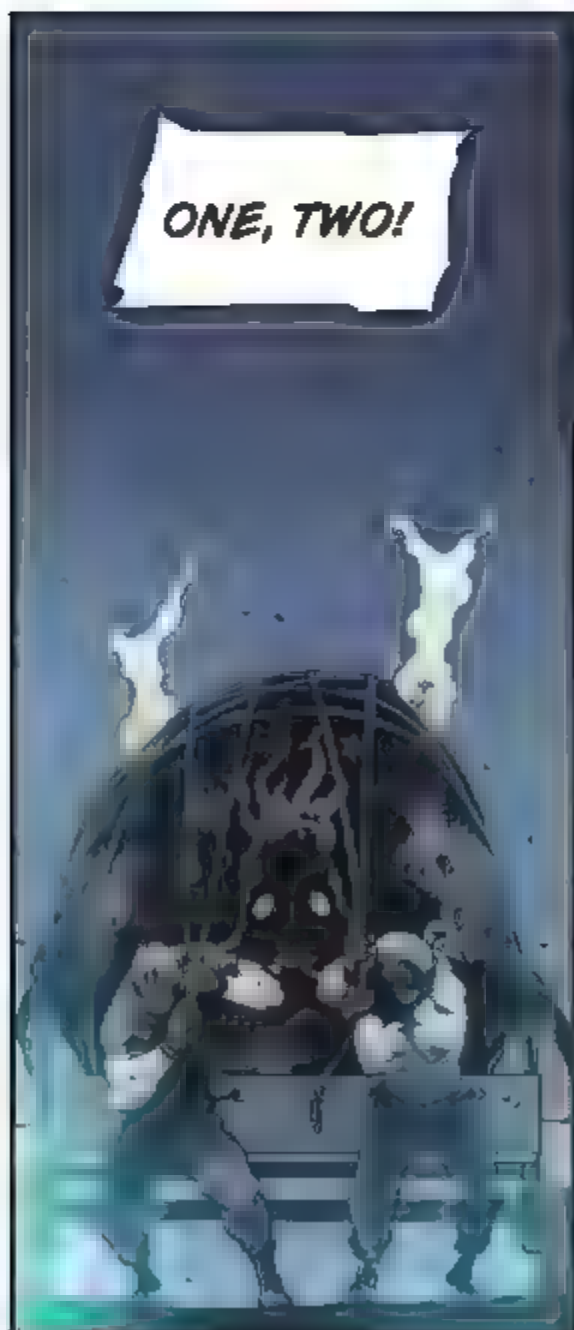
DOES AN E-RANK EVEN HAVE THE POWER TO DO THIS JOB?

RIGHT?





...IS
THAT DUDE
REALLY AN
E-RANK?



ONE, TWO!

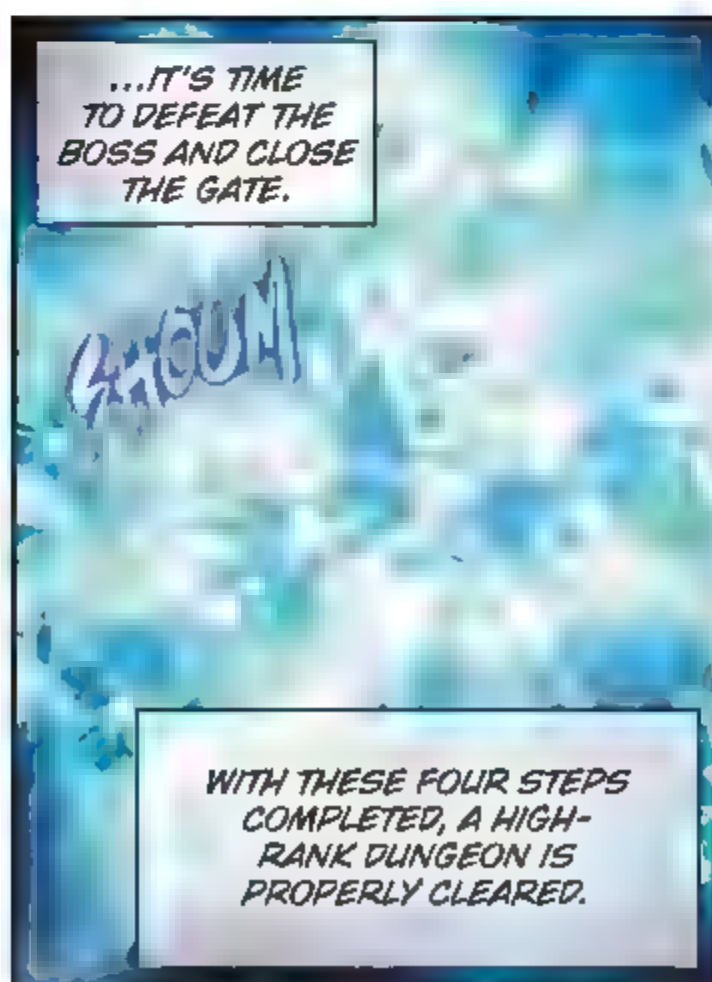
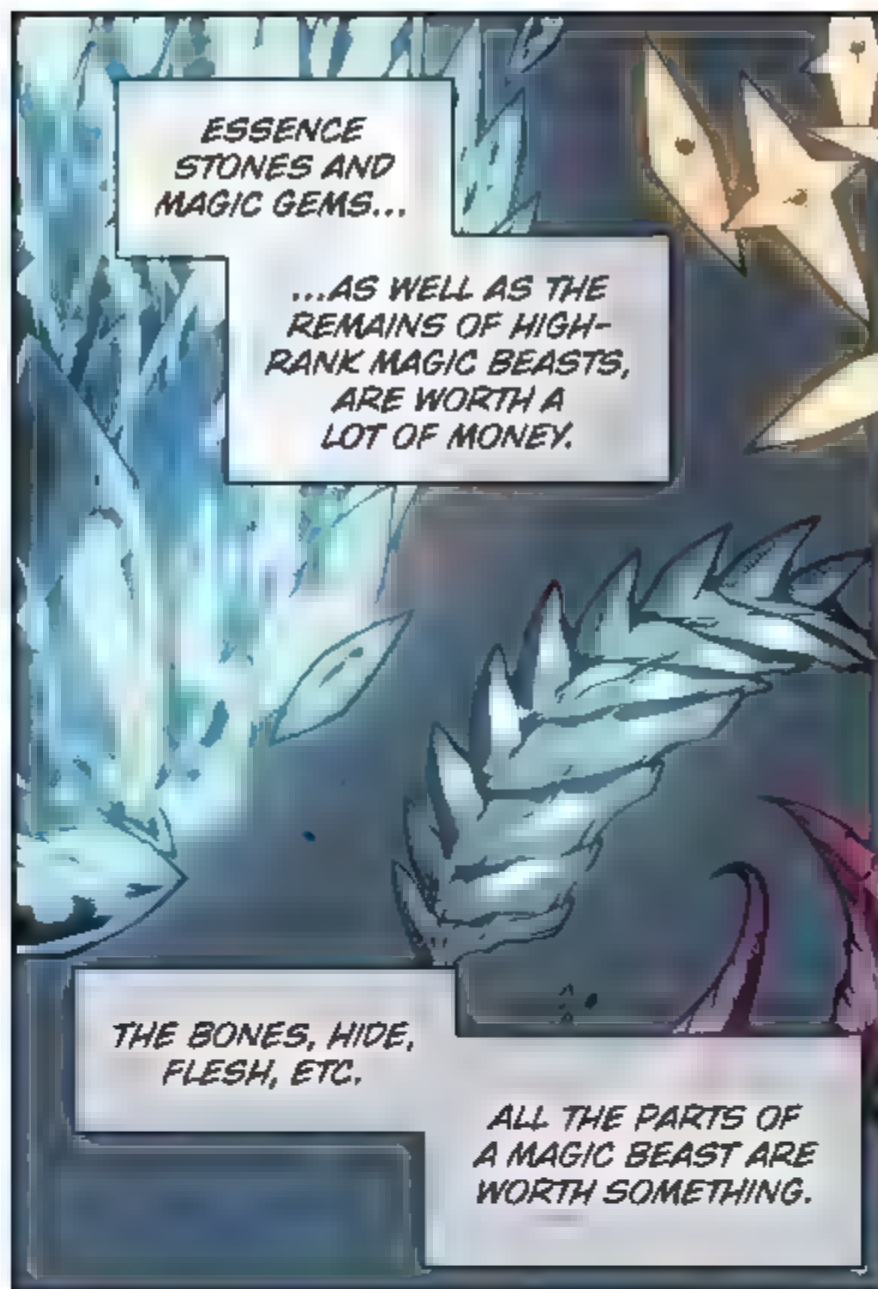
THE COLLECTION TEAM,
WHICH WENT INSIDE AHEAD
OF THE EXCAVATION TEAM,
IS AT WORK.

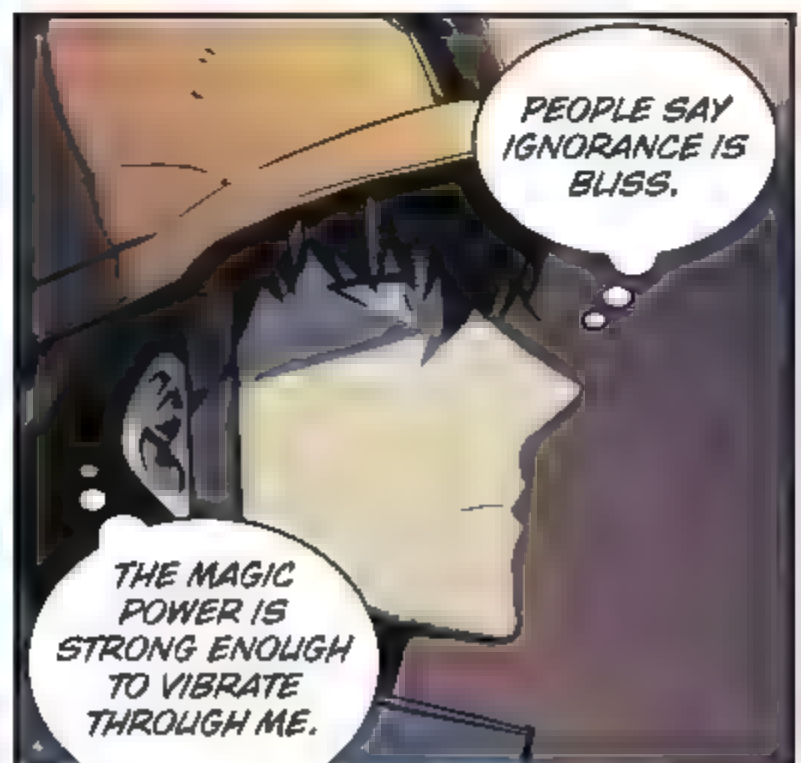
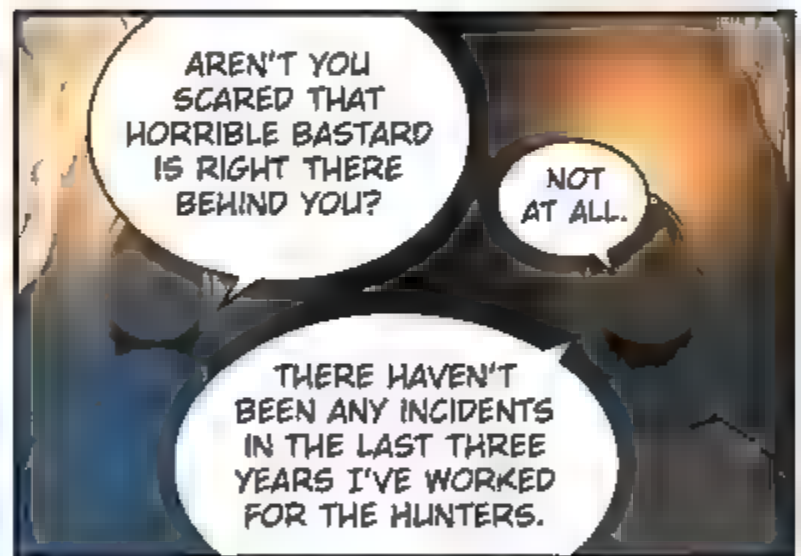
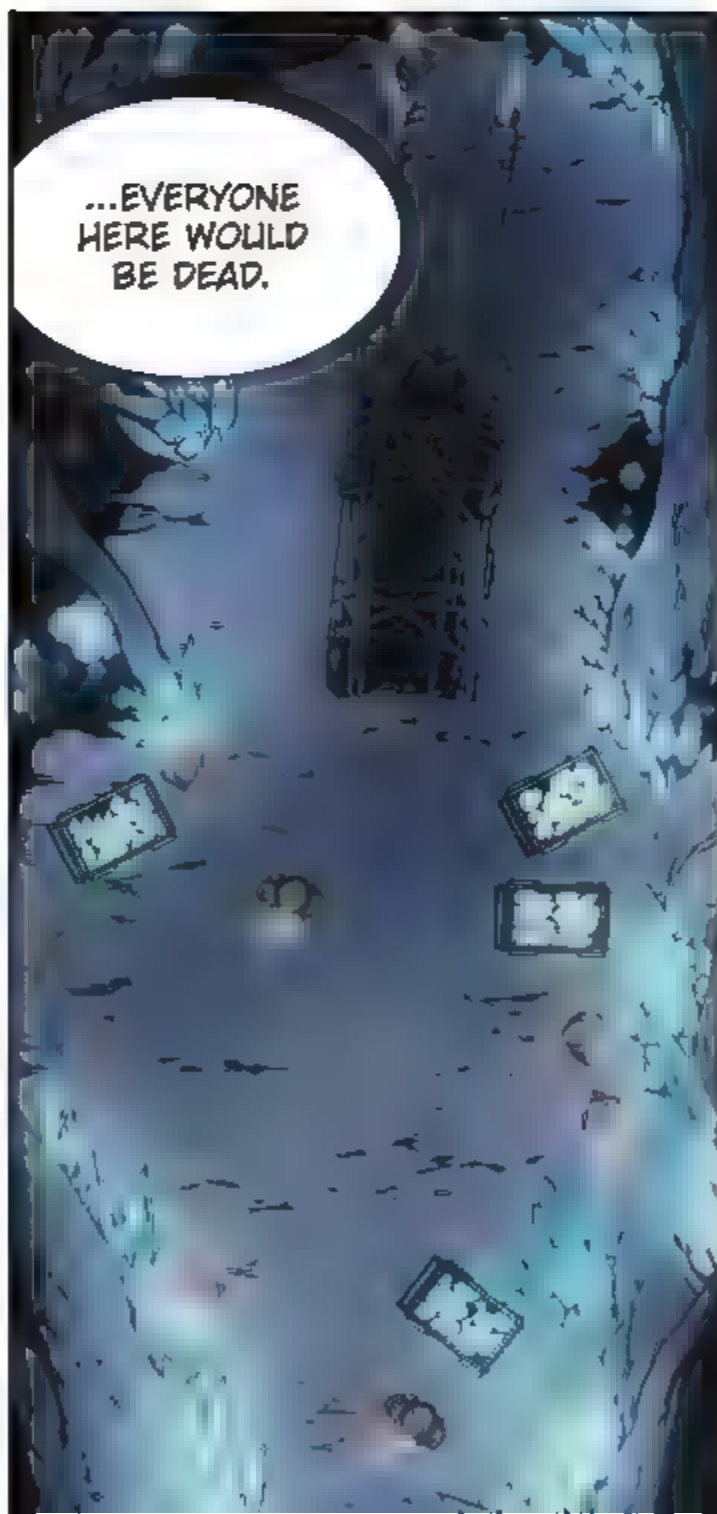
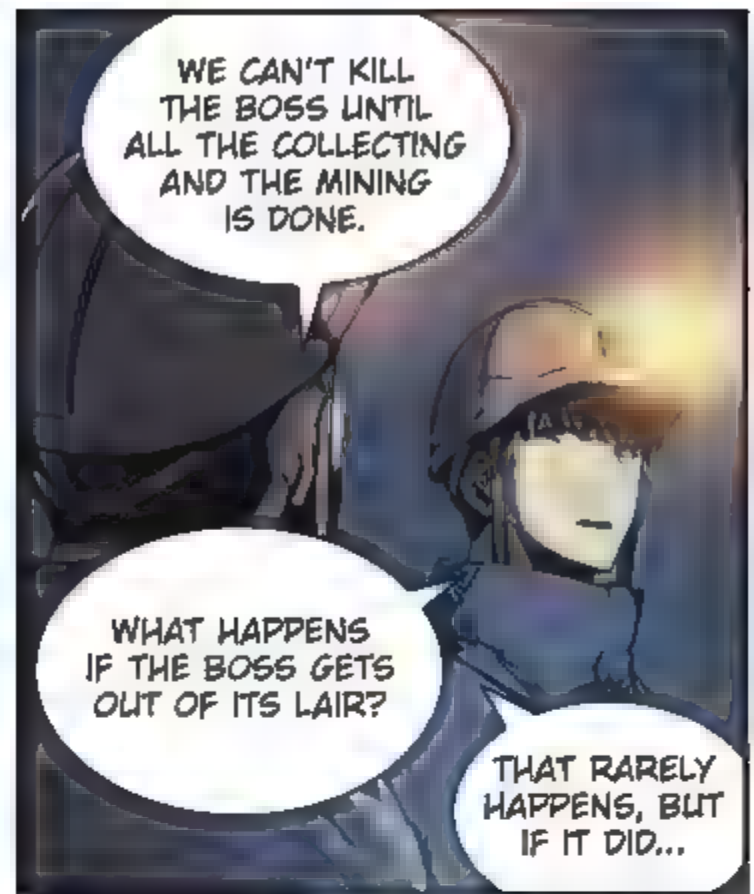
FIRST, THE STRIKE
SQUAD DEFEATS ALL
THE MAGIC BEASTS
EXCEPT FOR THE
BOSS.

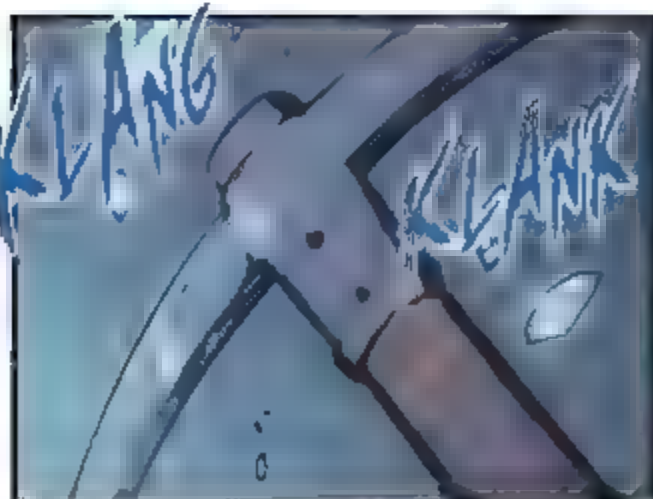
THEN, THE
COLLECTION TEAM
DRAGS OUT THE
MAGIC BEAST
CARCASSES.

LAST, THE
EXCAVATION TEAM
RETRIEVES ALL THE
STONES FOUND ON
THE CAVE WALLS.

NOTHING IS LEFT
BEHIND IN ORDER TO
MAXIMIZE PROFITS.



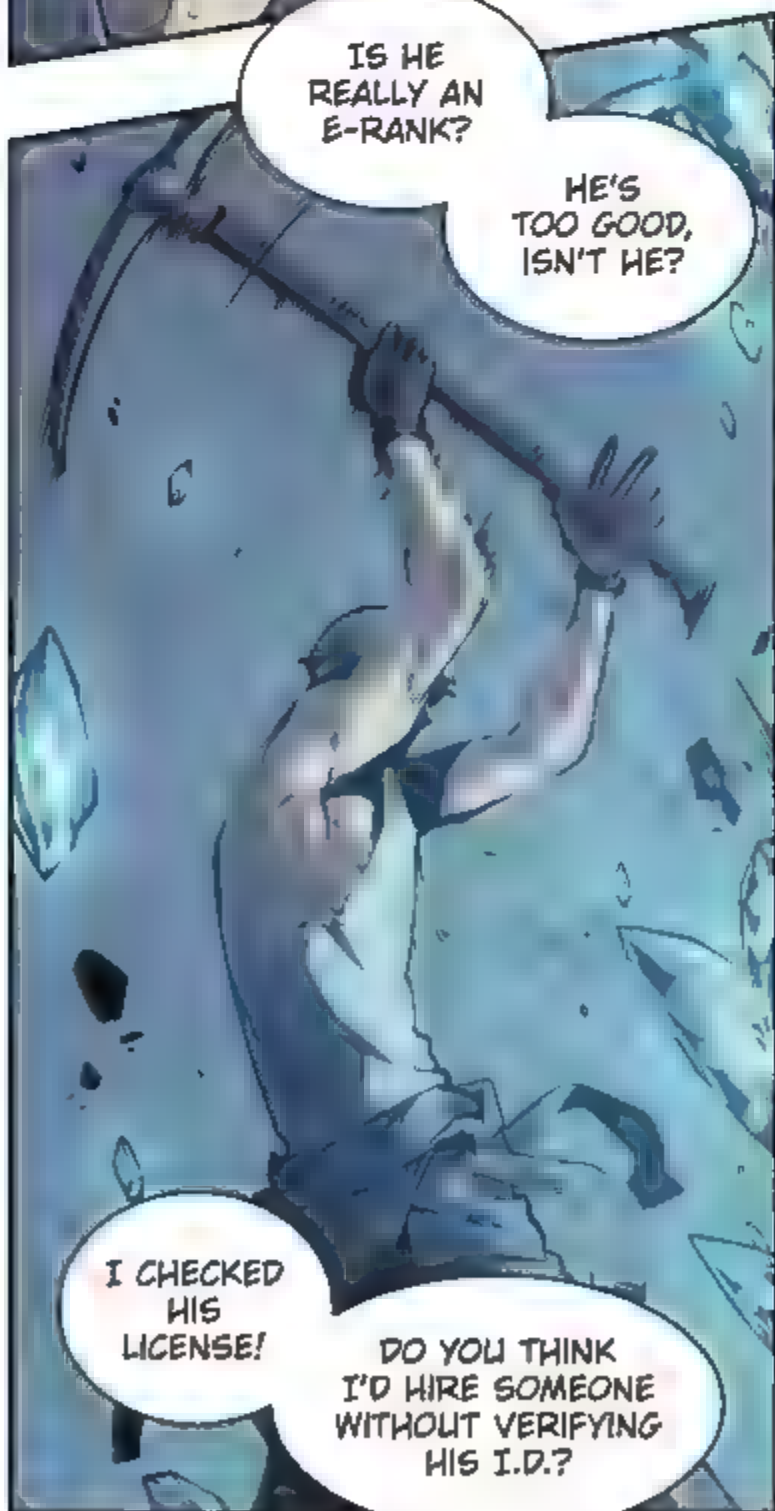






IS HE
REALLY AN
E-RANK?

HE'S
TOO GOOD,
ISN'T HE?



I CHECKED
HIS
LICENSE!

DO YOU THINK
I'D HIRE SOMEONE
WITHOUT VERIFYING
HIS I.D.?



THEN HOW
DO YOU EXPLAIN
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE?

.....

OBVIOUSLY...
SLUNG WAS BORN
TO BE A MINER!



DO I
KNOW HOW TO
PICK 'EM OR
WHAT?





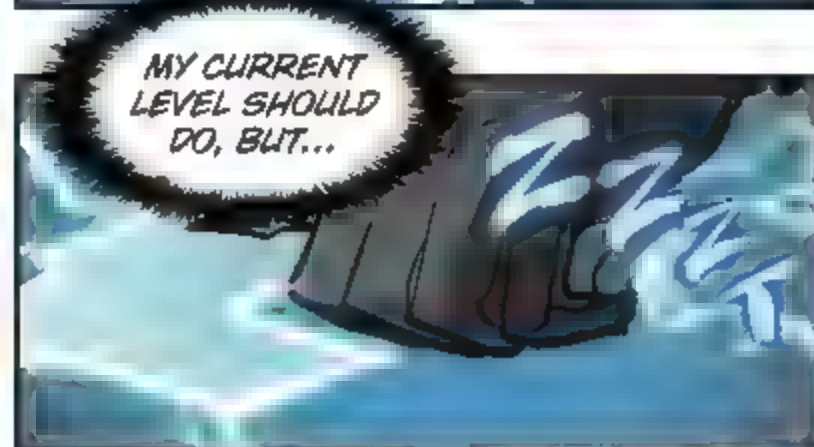
LET'S HAVE
A LOOK.



A GIANT-TYPE
MAGIC BEAST?



THIS BASTARD IS
STRONG. DEFINITELY
STRONGER THAN
METUS, NO?



MY CURRENT
LEVEL SHOULD
DO, BUT...



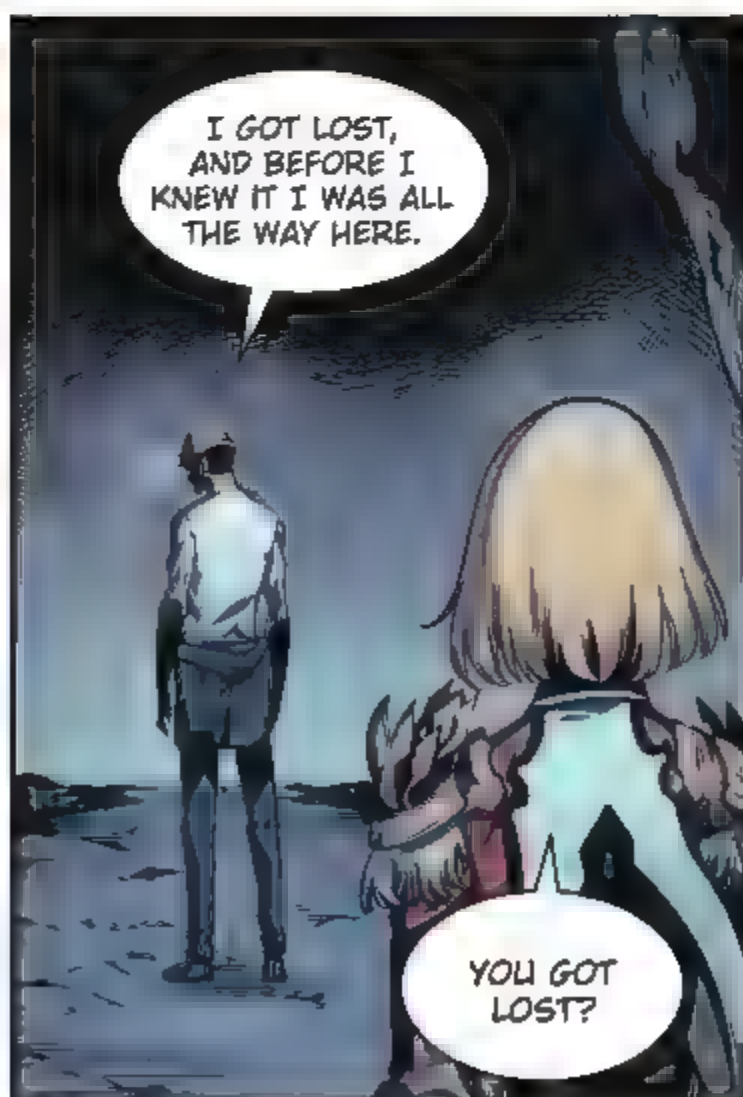
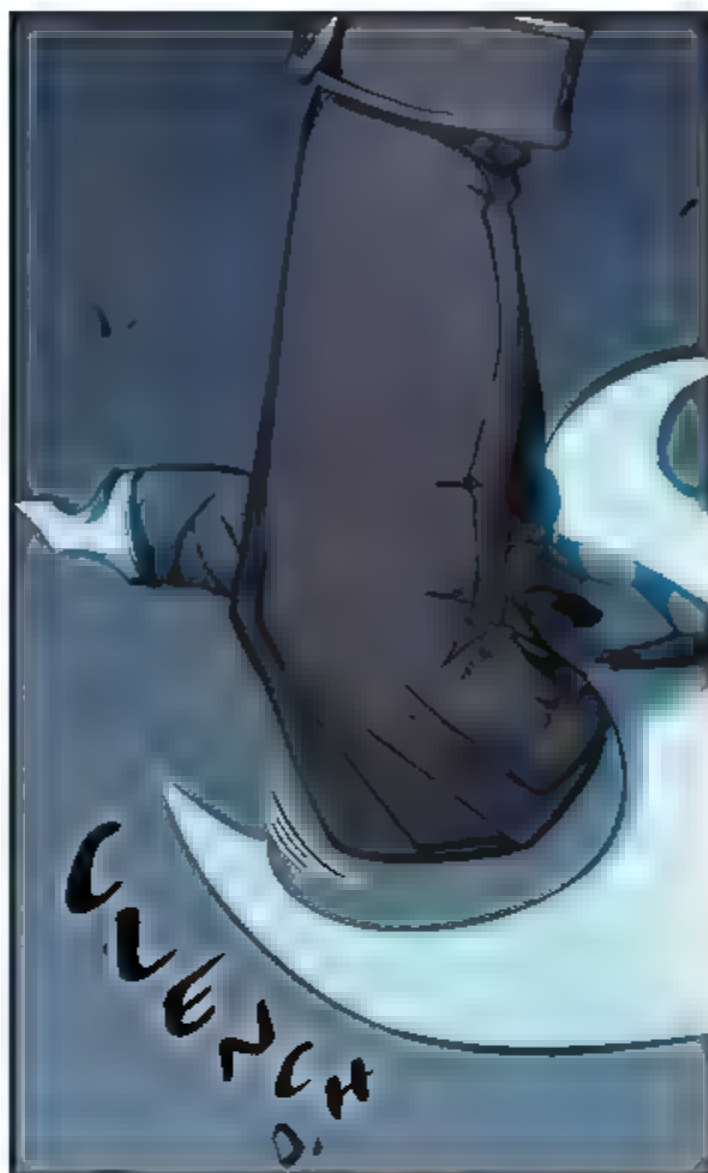
...I'M SMART
ENOUGH TO KNOW
NOT TO KILL THE
BOSS.

OR
SHOULD I
JUST DO
IT...?

IF I KILL
THE BOSS NOW, THE
GATE WILL CLOSE,
AND THE GUILD WILL
SUFFER A HUGE
LOSS.



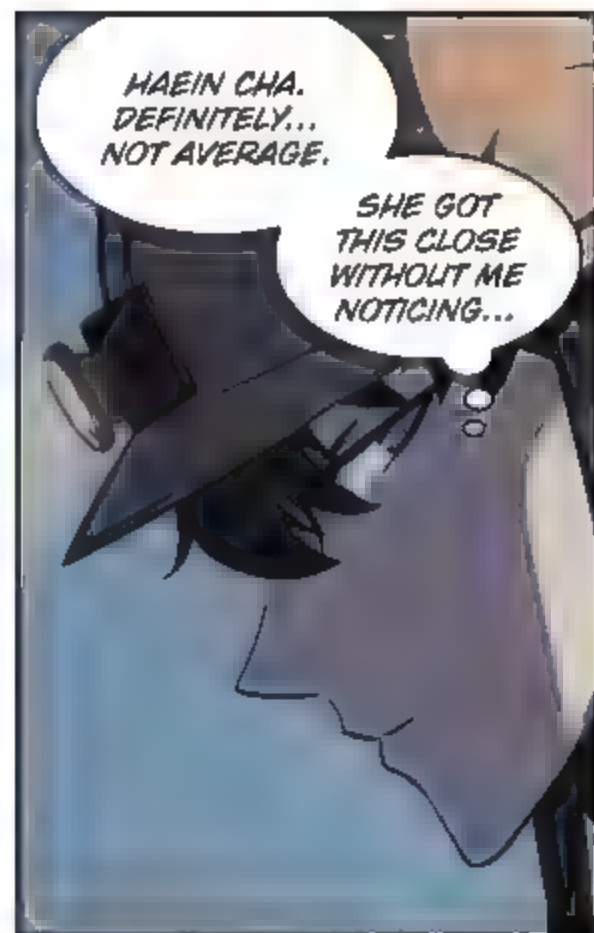
HEY,
WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
THERE?





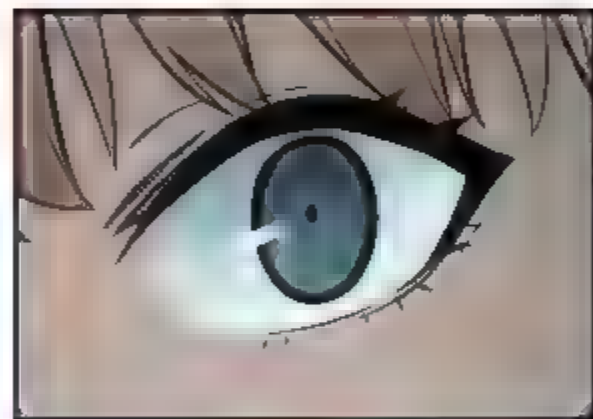
ARE YOU
ON THE
EXCAVATION
TEAM?

THIS IS WHERE
THE BOSS IS.
PLEASE STEP
BACK.



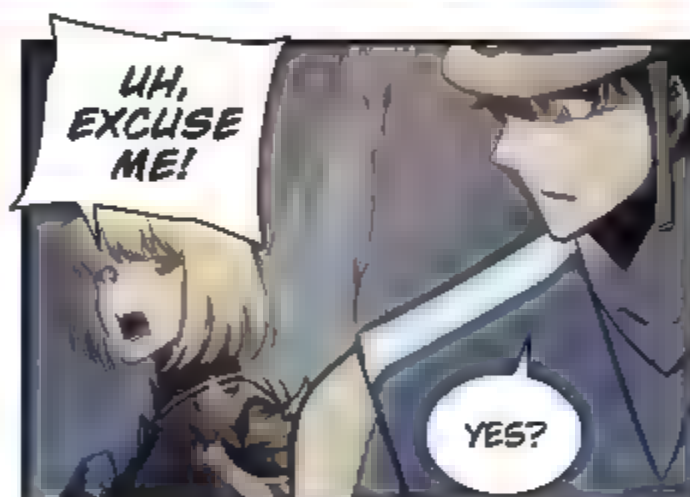
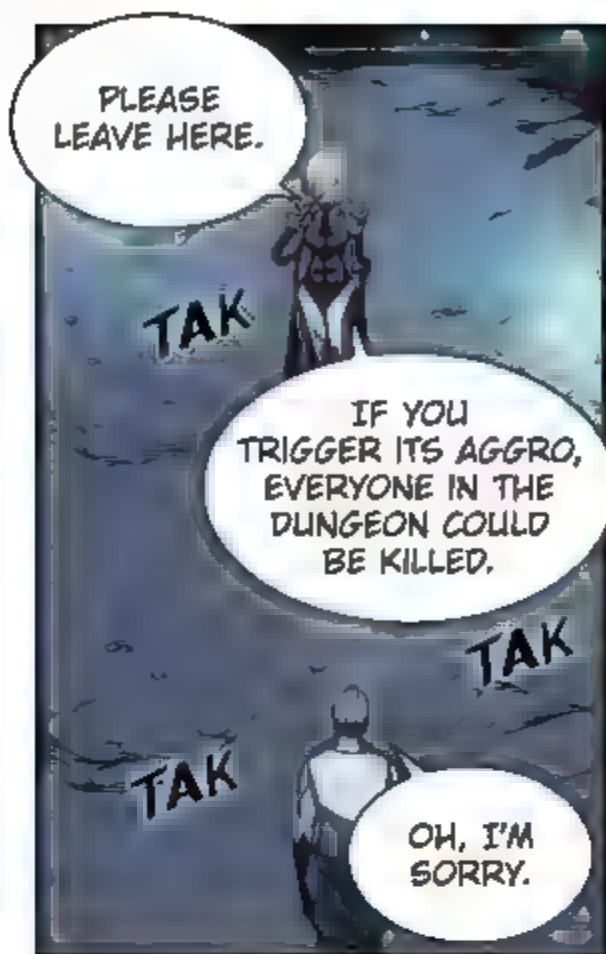
HAEGIN CHA.
DEFINITELY...
NOT AVERAGE.

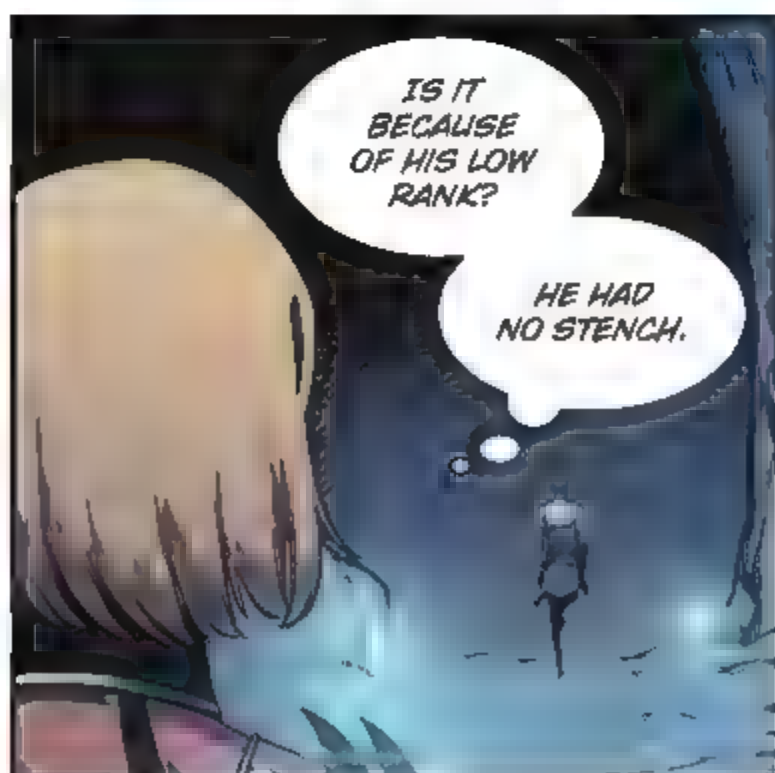
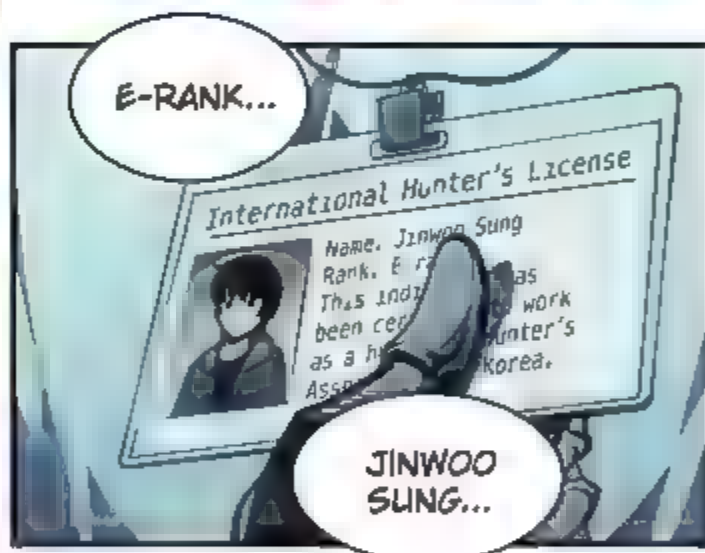
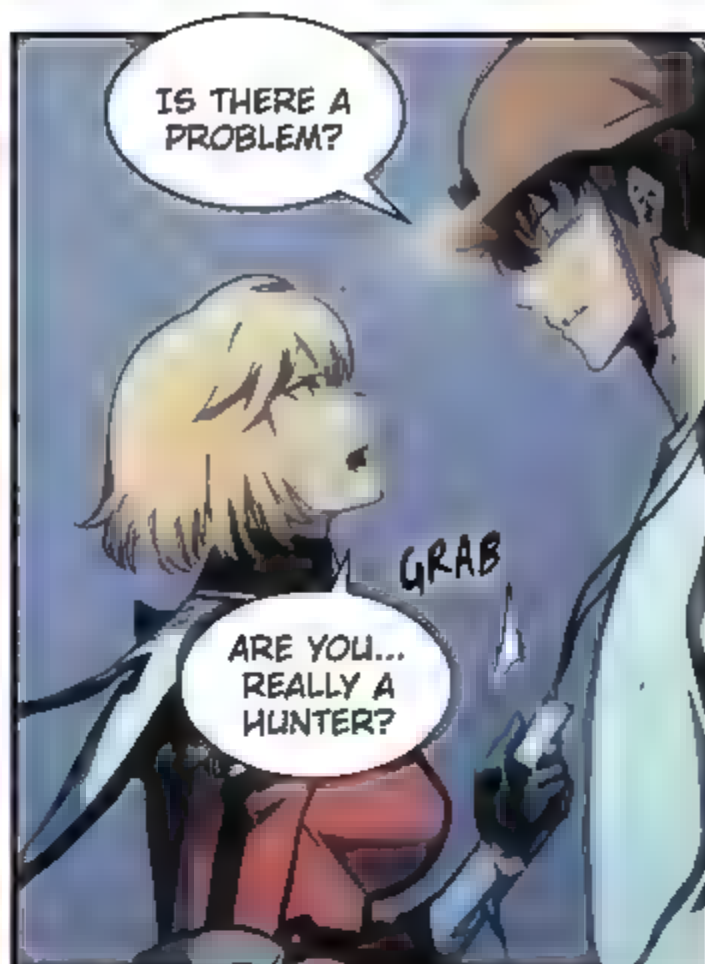
SHE GOT
THIS CLOSE
WITHOUT ME
NOTICING...



AM I SEEING
THINGS?

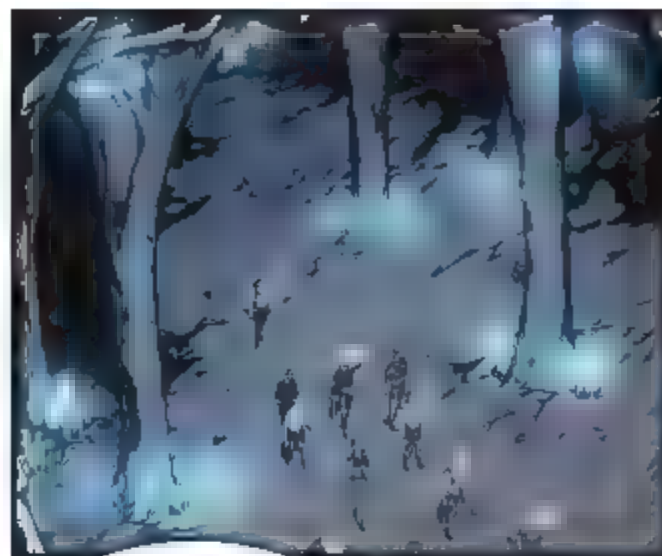
I THOUGHT I
SAW HIM HOLDING
A WEAPON OF
SOME KIND!







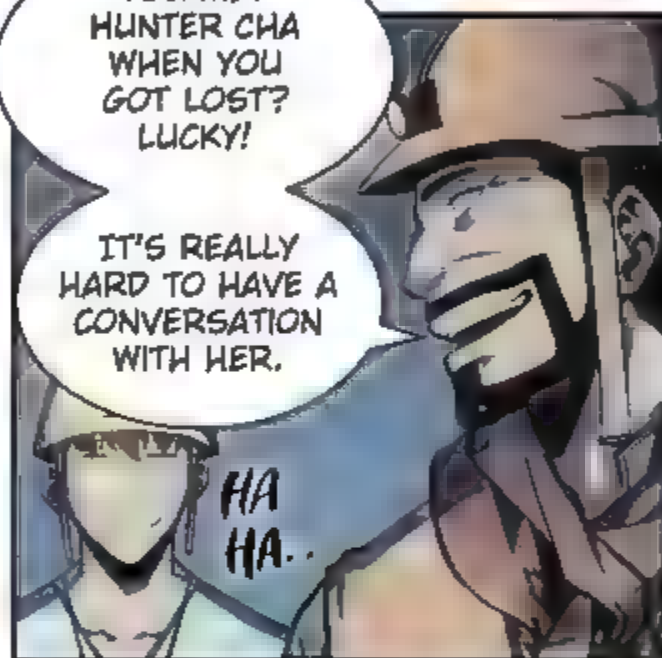
NO...
HE ACTUALLY
SMELLED
NICE.



YOU MET
HUNTER CHA
WHEN YOU
GOT LOST?
LUCKY!

IT'S REALLY
HARD TO HAVE A
CONVERSATION
WITH HER.

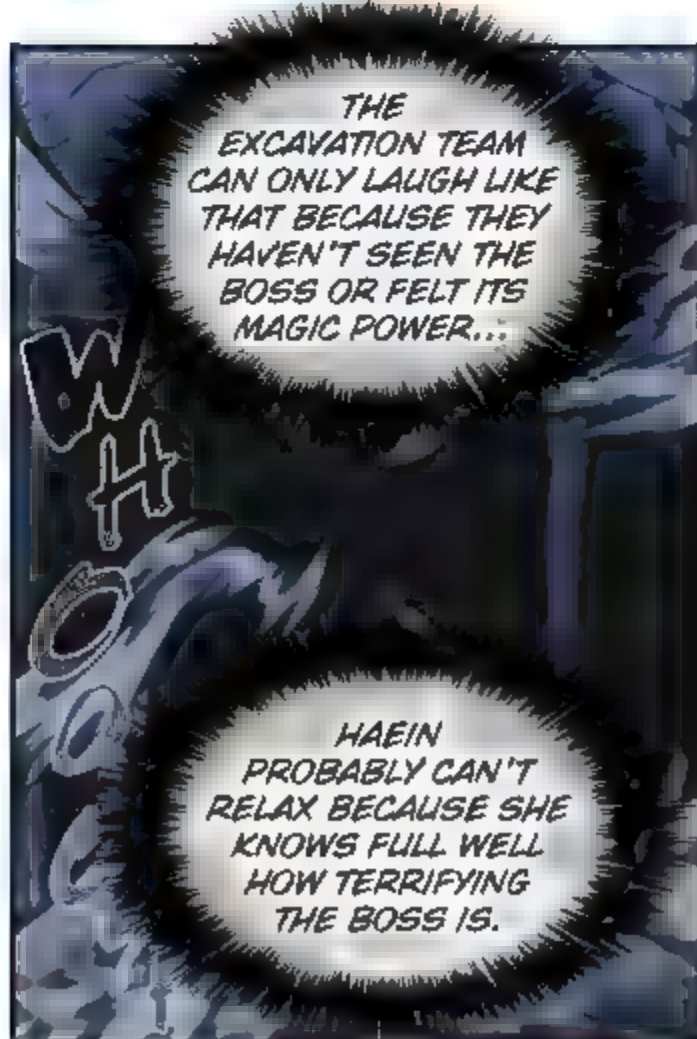
HA
HA..



SHE ALWAYS
PATROLS THE
DUNGEON BECAUSE
SHE'S WORRIED THE
BOSS WILL EMERGE
FROM ITS LAIR.

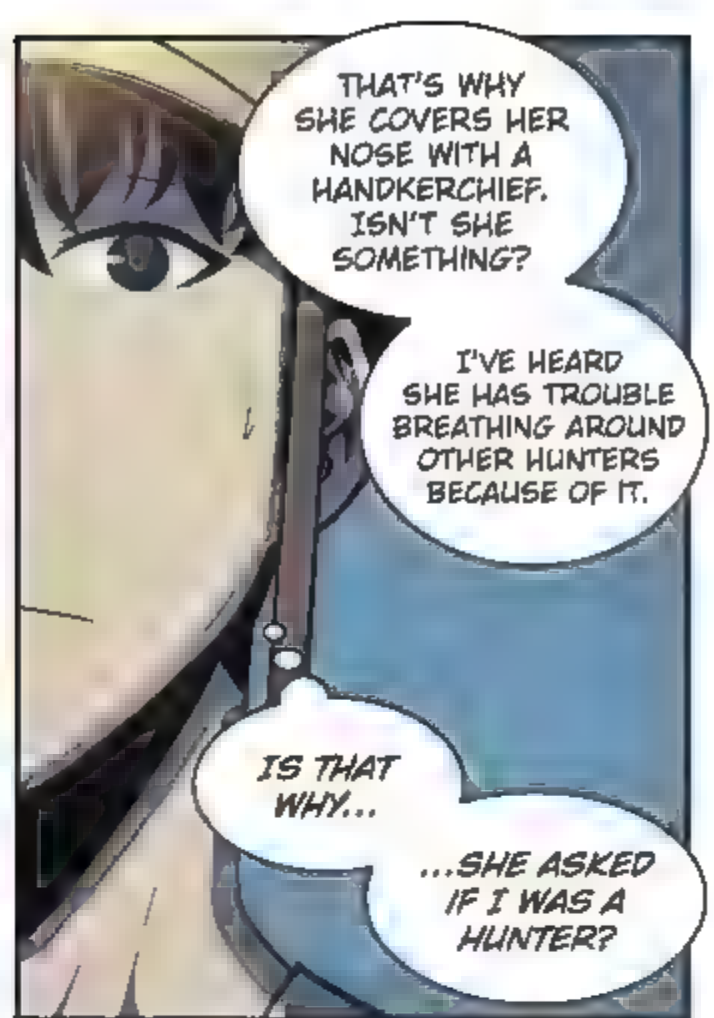
SHE NEVER
TAKES A BREAK—
SHE JUST PATROLS
THE WHOLE TIME.
SHE'S SUCH A HARD
WORKER.

THAT'S
WHY SHE WAS
IN THE BOSS'S
LAIR?



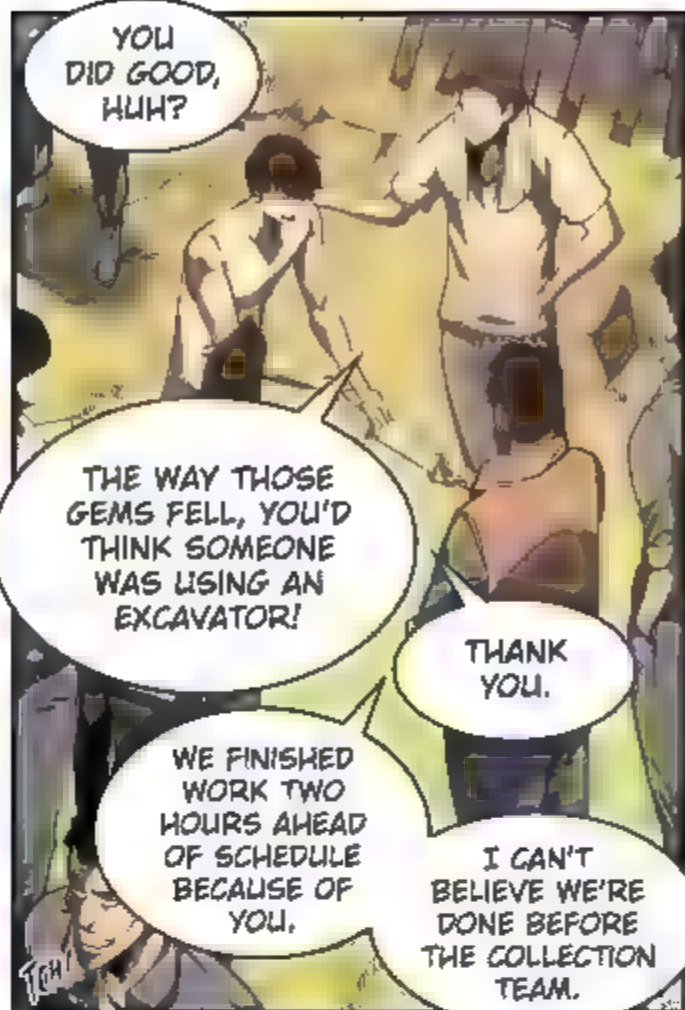
THE
EXCAVATION TEAM
CAN ONLY LAUGH LIKE
THAT BECAUSE THEY
HAVEN'T SEEN THE
BOSS OR FELT ITS
MAGIC POWER...

HAEIN
PROBABLY CAN'T
RELAX BECAUSE SHE
KNOWS FULL WELL
HOW TERRIFYING
THE BOSS IS.





WELL DONE,
SUNG!



YOU
DID GOOD,
HUH?

THE WAY THOSE
GEMS FELL, YOU'D
THINK SOMEONE
WAS USING AN
EXCAVATOR!

THANK
YOU.

WE FINISHED
WORK TWO
HOURS AHEAD
OF SCHEDULE
BECAUSE OF
YOU.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE'RE
DONE BEFORE
THE COLLECTION
TEAM.

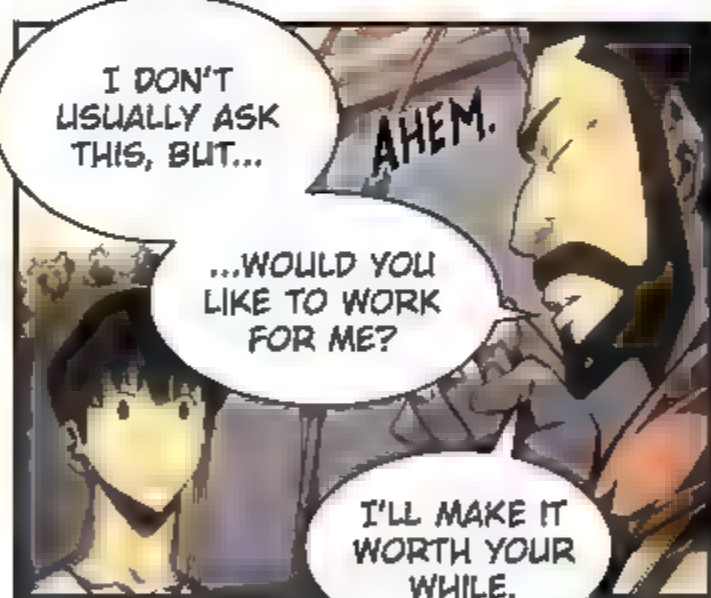


I'VE MET A
LOT OF PEOPLE
WORKING THIS
JOB.

BUT I'VE
NEVER MET
ANYONE LIKE
YOU.

YOU'RE A
NATURAL-BORN
MINER.

HA-HA...
OH BOY.

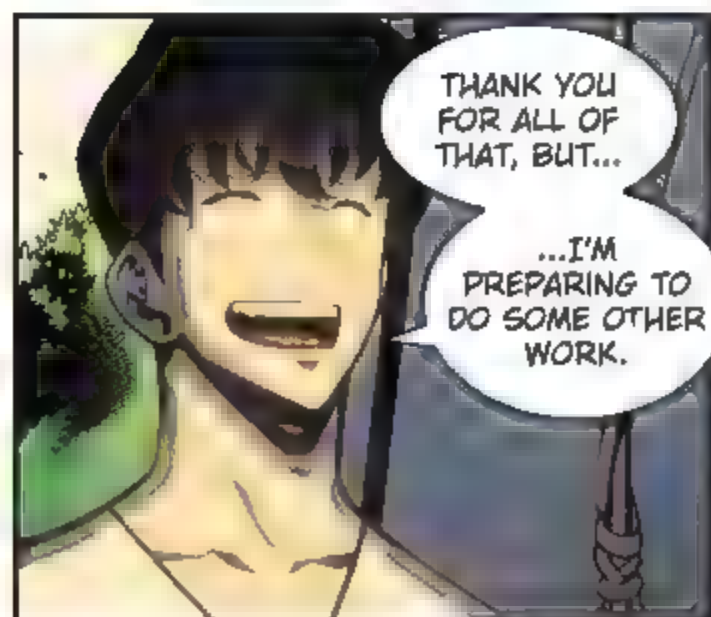


I DON'T
USUALLY ASK
THIS, BUT...

AHEM.

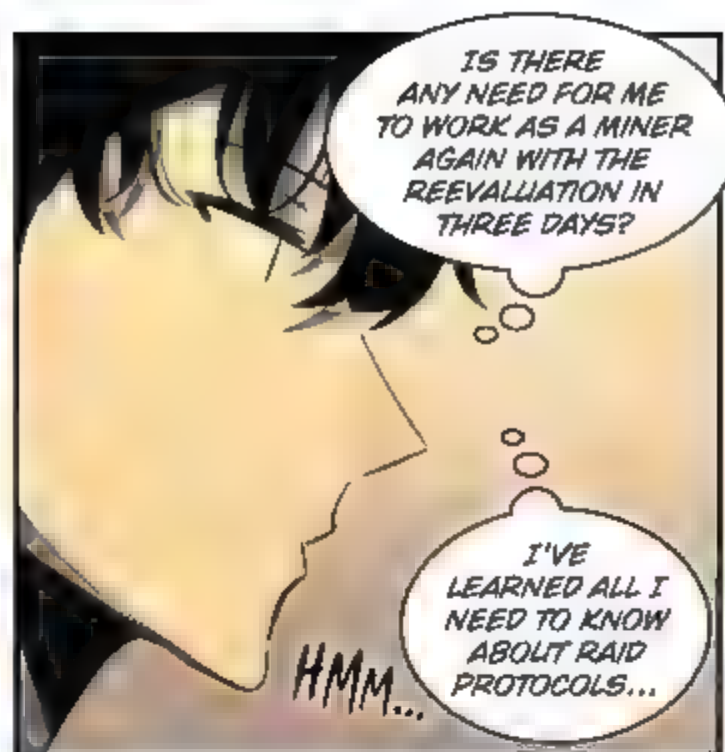
...WOULD YOU
LIKE TO WORK
FOR ME?

I'LL MAKE IT
WORTH YOUR
WHILE.



THANK YOU
FOR ALL OF
THAT, BUT...

...I'M
PREPARING TO
DO SOME OTHER
WORK.

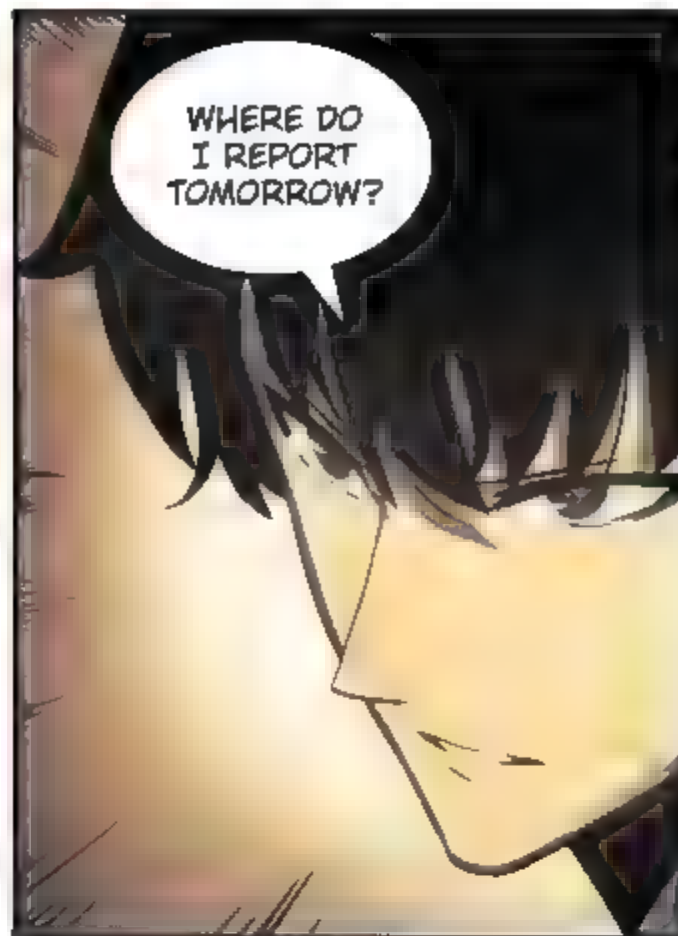




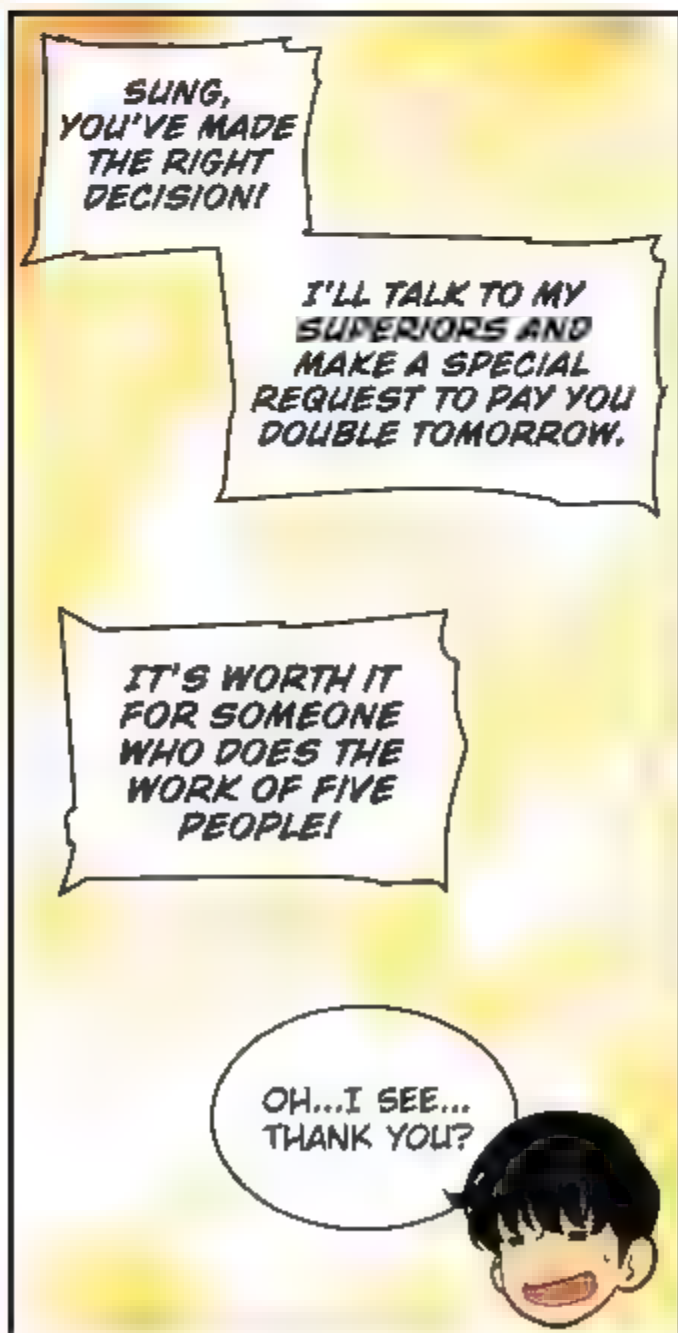
ARE THEY TRYING TO CLEAR AN A-RANK DUNGEON WITH A SECOND-LEVEL SQUAD?

THAT'S HOW POWERFUL THE HUNTERS GUILD IS.

IN ALL OF KOREA, THE HUNTERS IS PROBABLY THE ONLY GUILD WITH THE POWER TO ATTACK TWO A-RANK GATES AT THE SAME TIME WITH TWO SEPARATE TEAMS.



WHERE DO I REPORT TOMORROW?

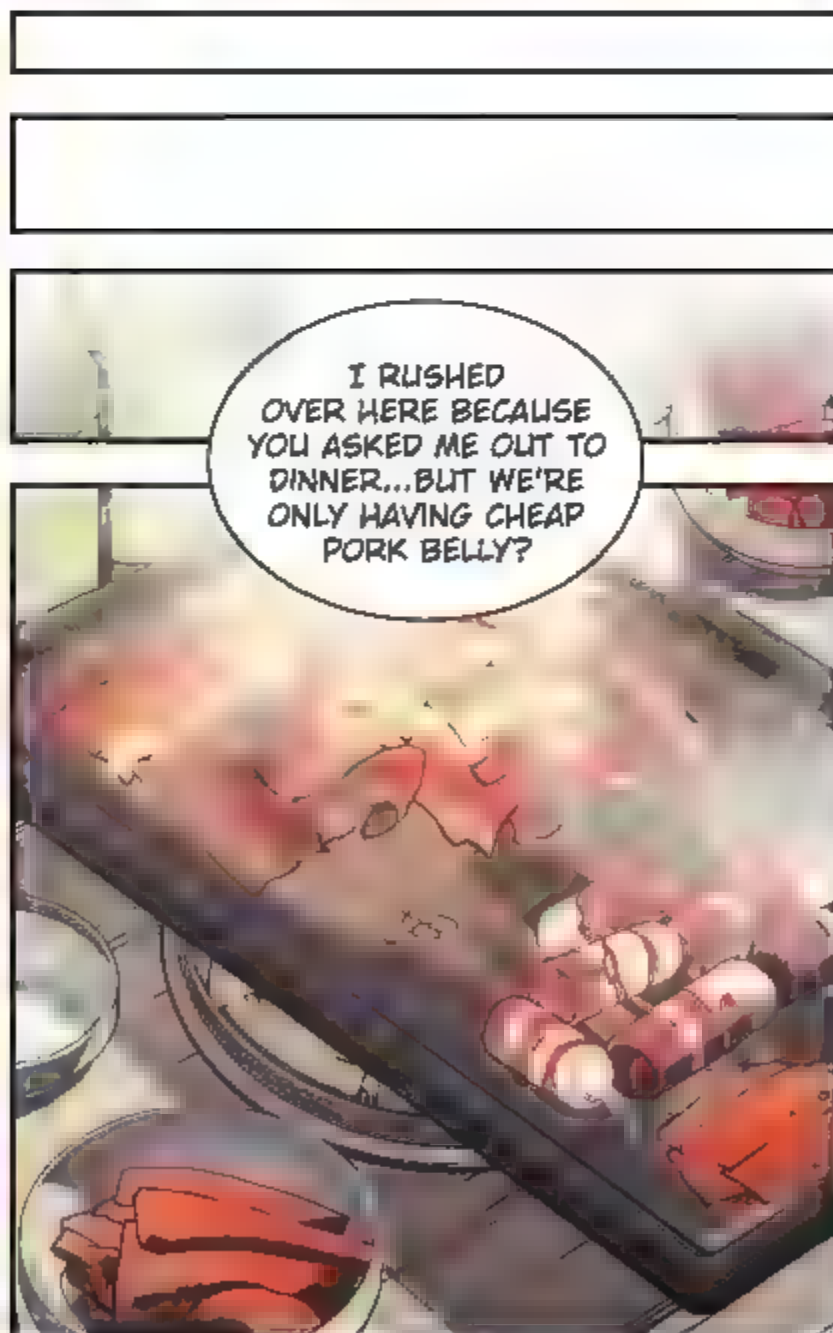


SUNG, YOU'VE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION!

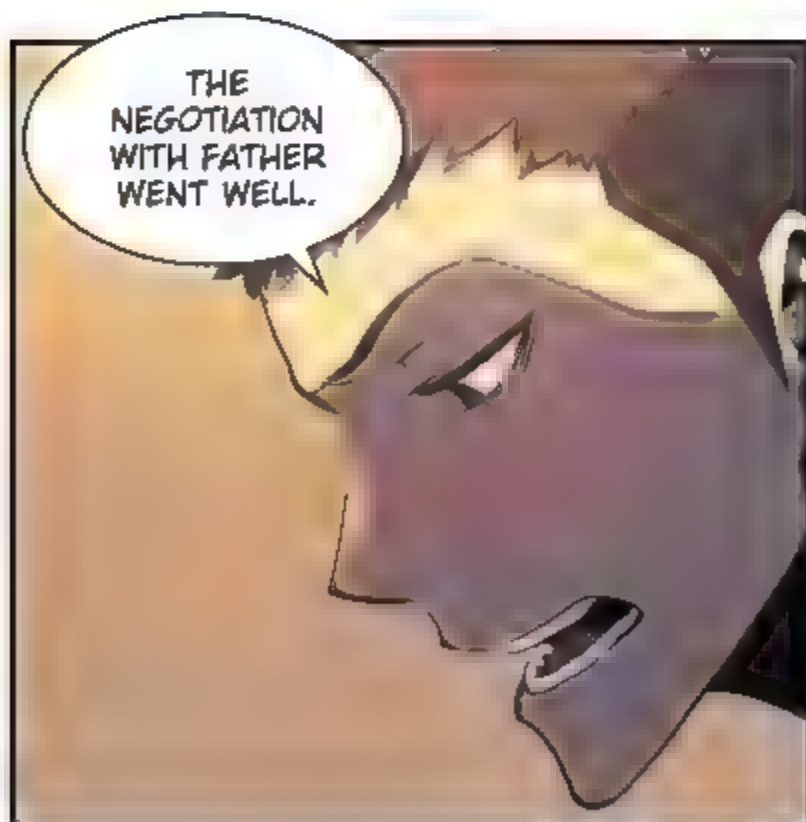
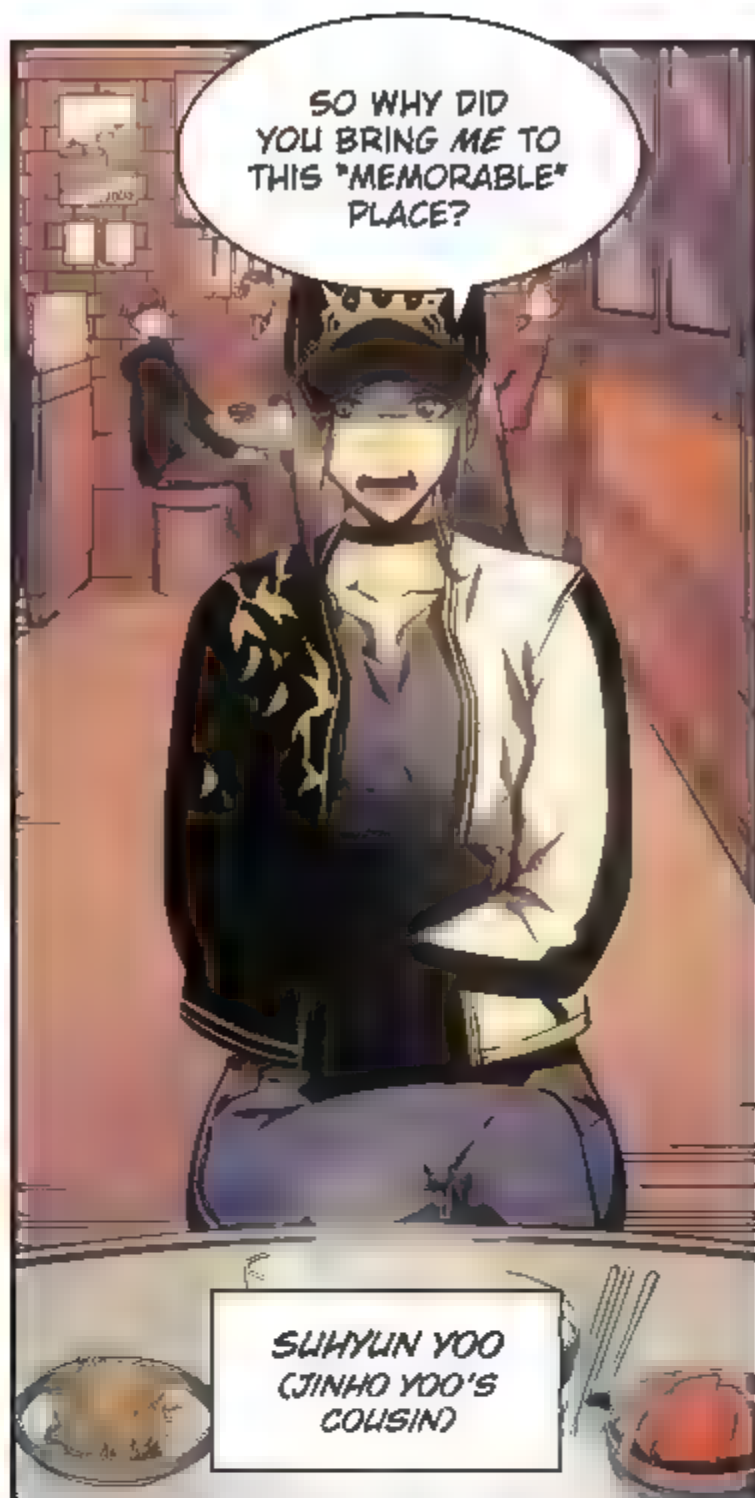
I'LL TALK TO MY SUPERIORS AND MAKE A SPECIAL REQUEST TO PAY YOU DOUBLE TOMORROW.

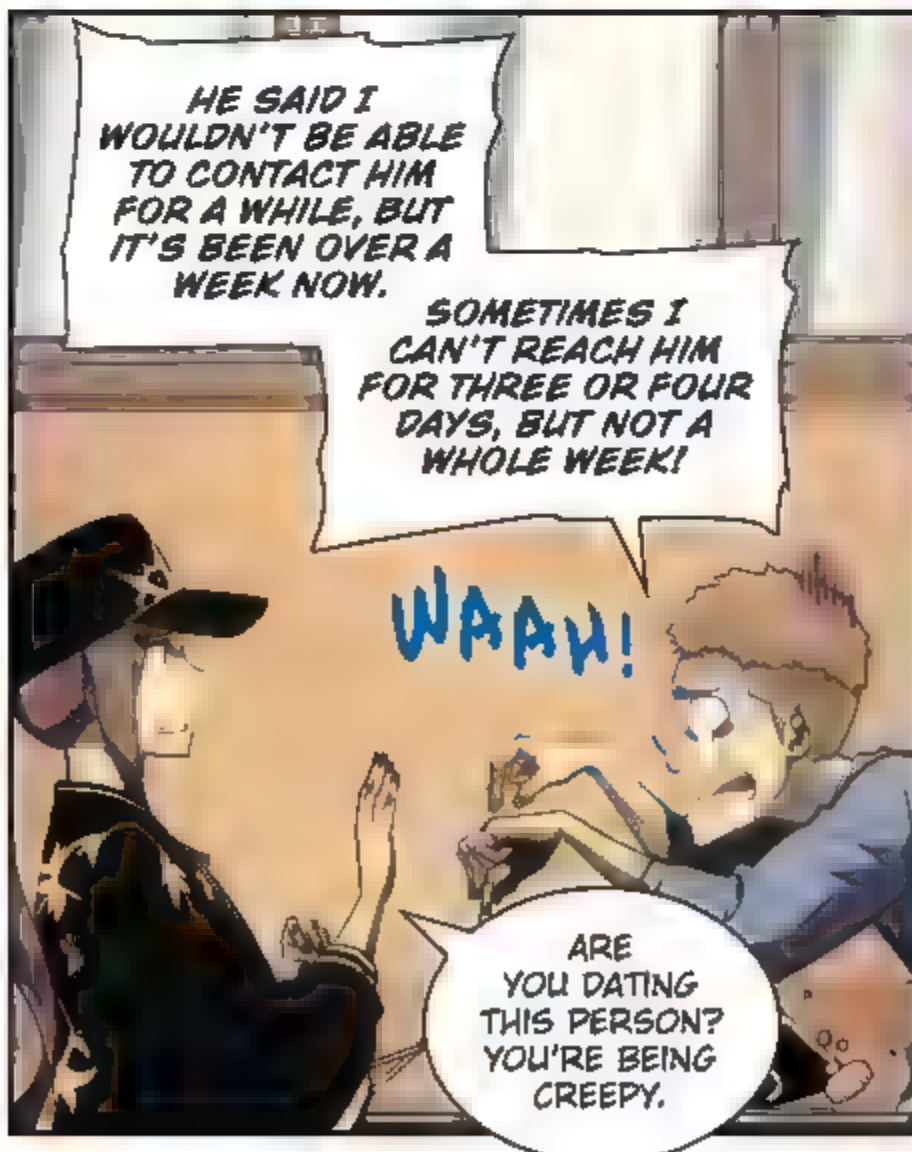
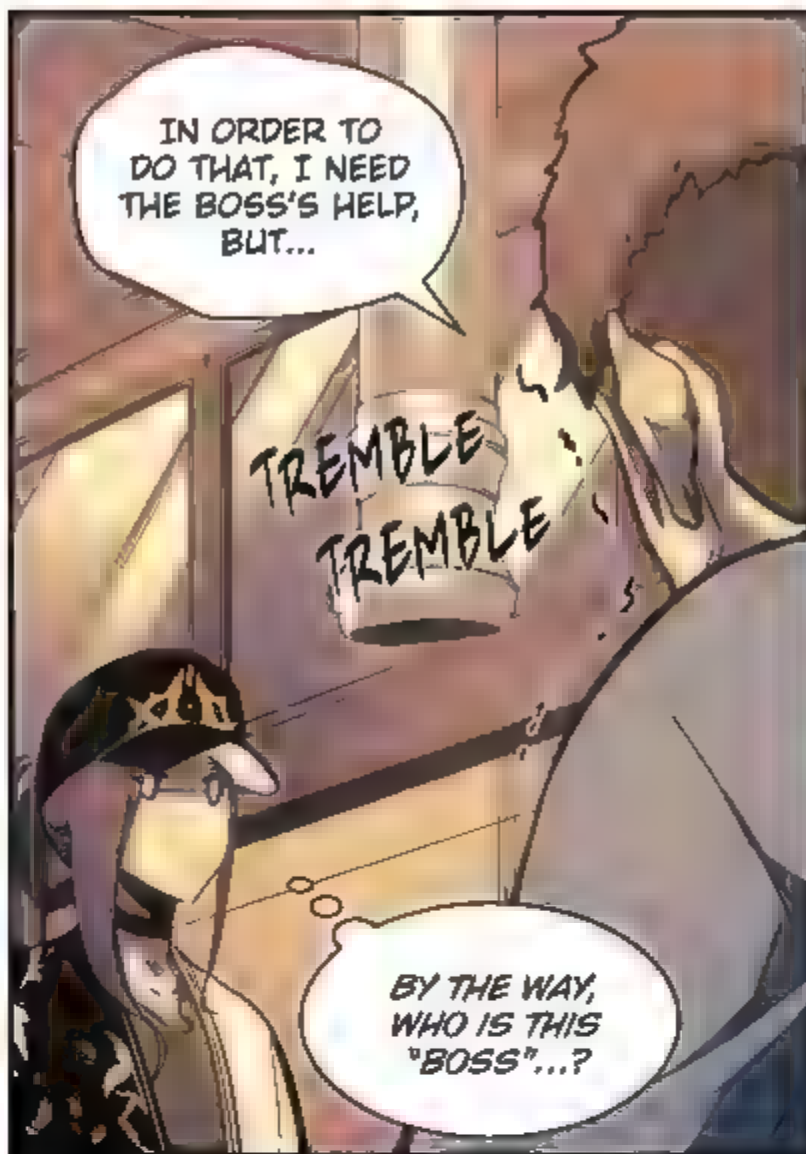
IT'S WORTH IT FOR SOMEONE WHO DOES THE WORK OF FIVE PEOPLE!

OH...I SEE... THANK YOU?



I RUSHED OVER HERE BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME OUT TO DINNER...BUT WE'RE ONLY HAVING CHEAP PORK BELLY?





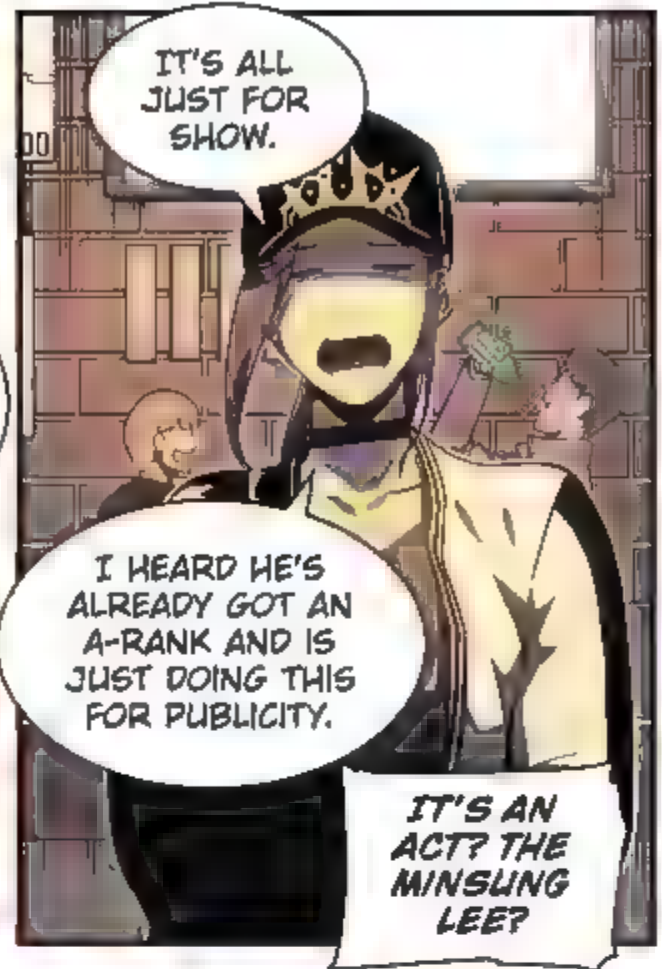


IT'S MINSUNG LEE.

MINSUNG LEE, INTERNATIONAL STAR.

MINSUNG IS GOING TO GET EVALUATED AS AN AWAKENED BEING IN THREE DAYS.

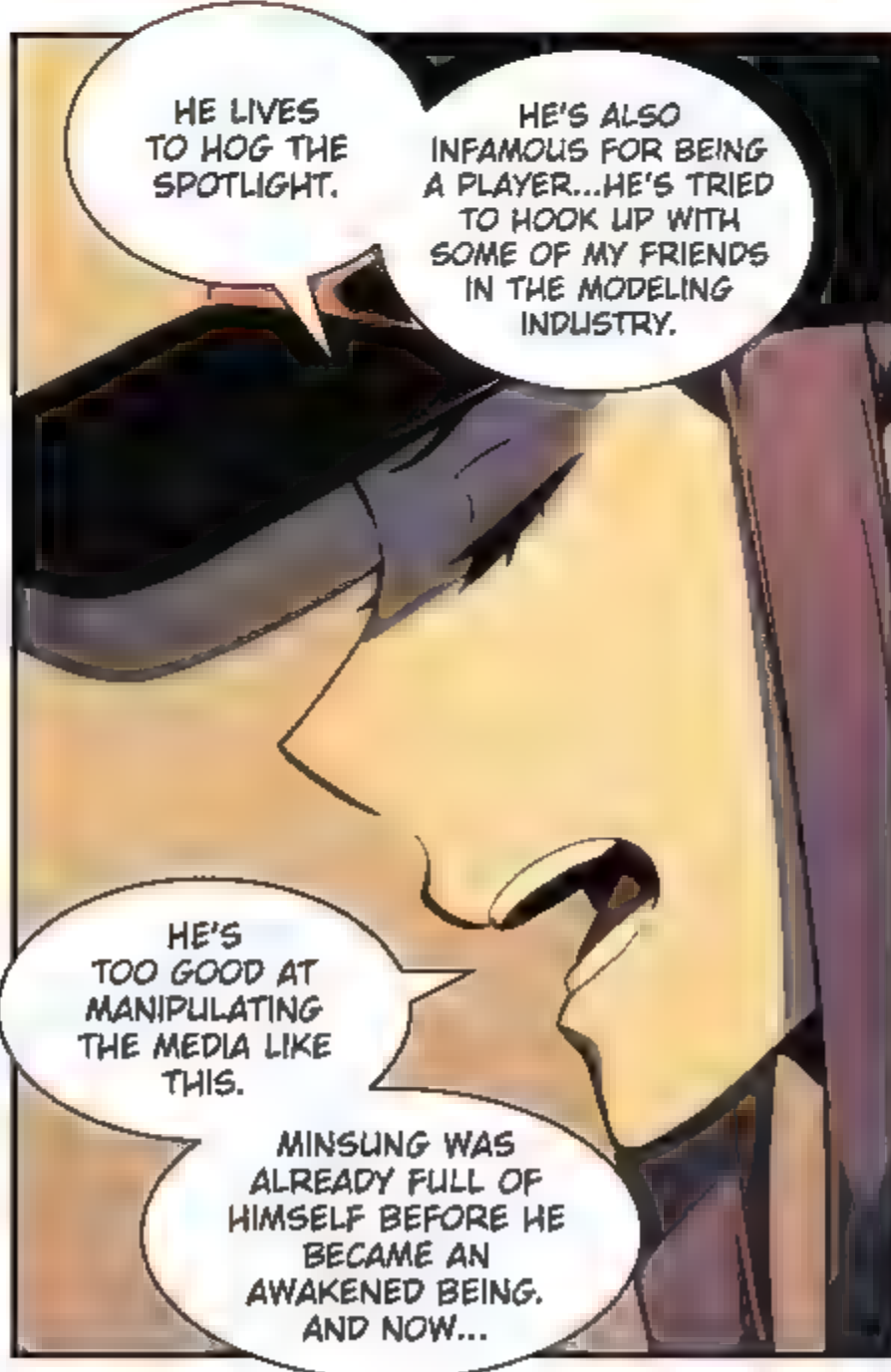
WATER IS SELF-SER



IT'S ALL JUST FOR SHOW.

I HEARD HE'S ALREADY GOT AN A-RANK AND IS JUST DOING THIS FOR PUBLICITY.

IT'S AN ACT? THE MINSUNG LEE?

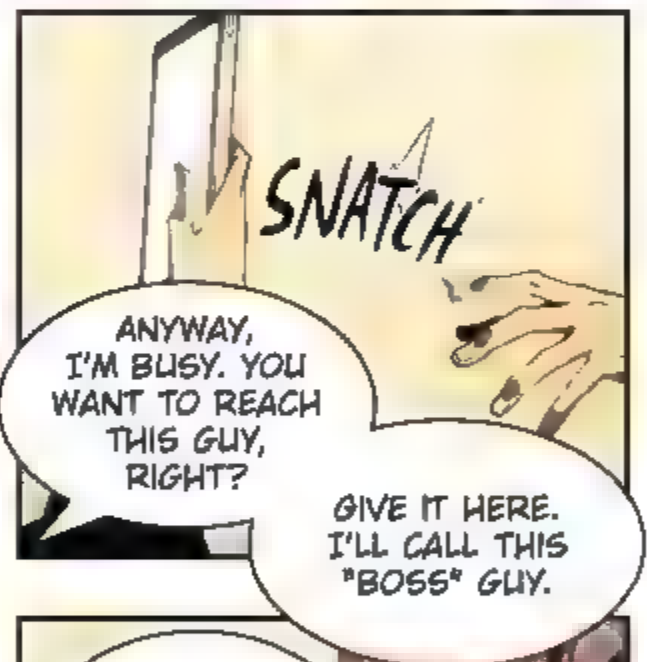


HE LIVES TO HOG THE SPOTLIGHT.

HE'S ALSO INFAMOUS FOR BEING A PLAYER...HE'S TRIED TO HOOK UP WITH SOME OF MY FRIENDS IN THE MODELING INDUSTRY.

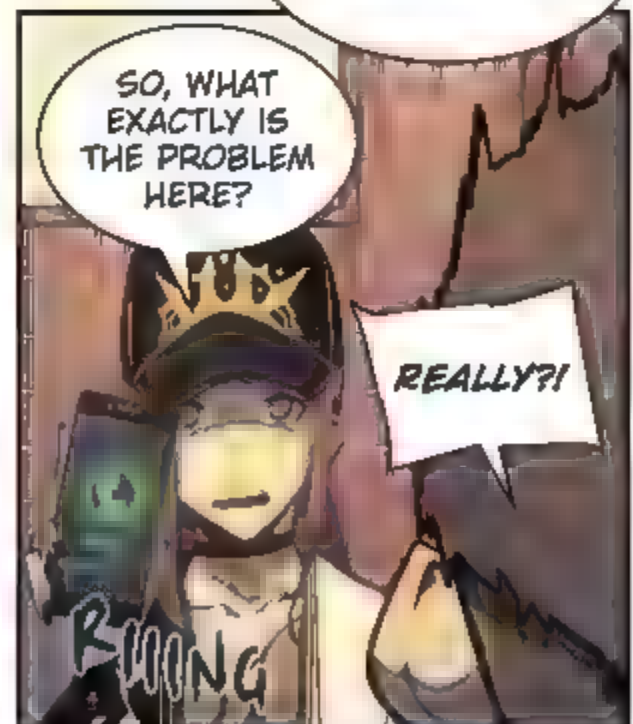
HE'S TOO GOOD AT MANIPULATING THE MEDIA LIKE THIS.

MINSUNG WAS ALREADY FULL OF HIMSELF BEFORE HE BECAME AN AWAKENED BEING. AND NOW...



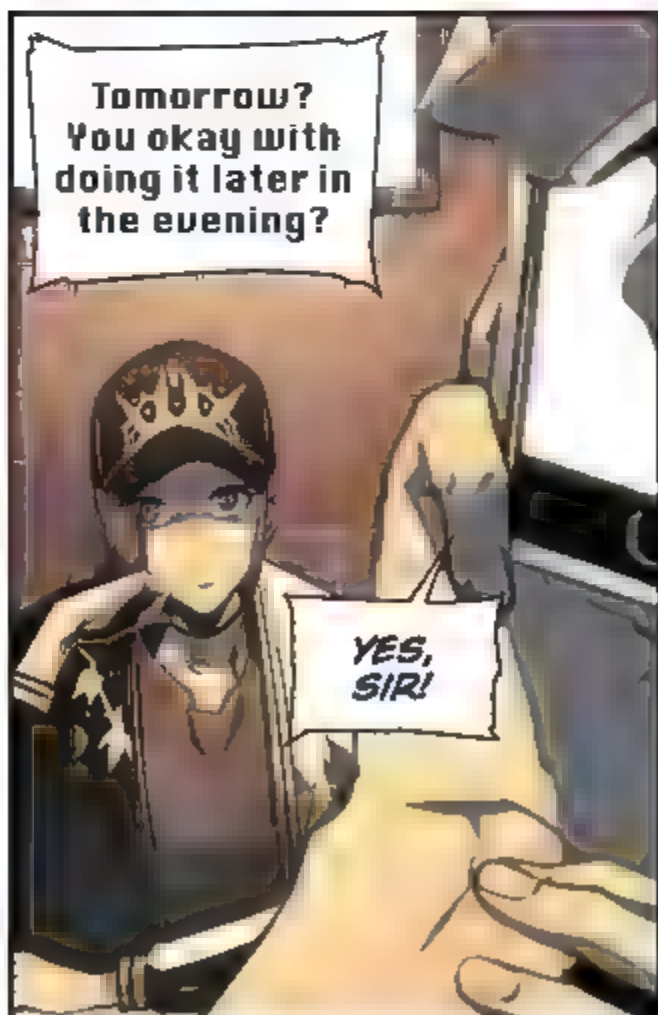
ANYWAY, I'M BUSY. YOU WANT TO REACH THIS GUY, RIGHT?

GIVE IT HERE. I'LL CALL THIS "BOSS" GUY.



SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PROBLEM HERE?

REALLY?!





Hunter Cha!
What would be
making you call
at this hour?



CAN YOU
PLEASE FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT HUNTER
JINWOO SUNG FROM
THE EXCAVATION
TEAM?

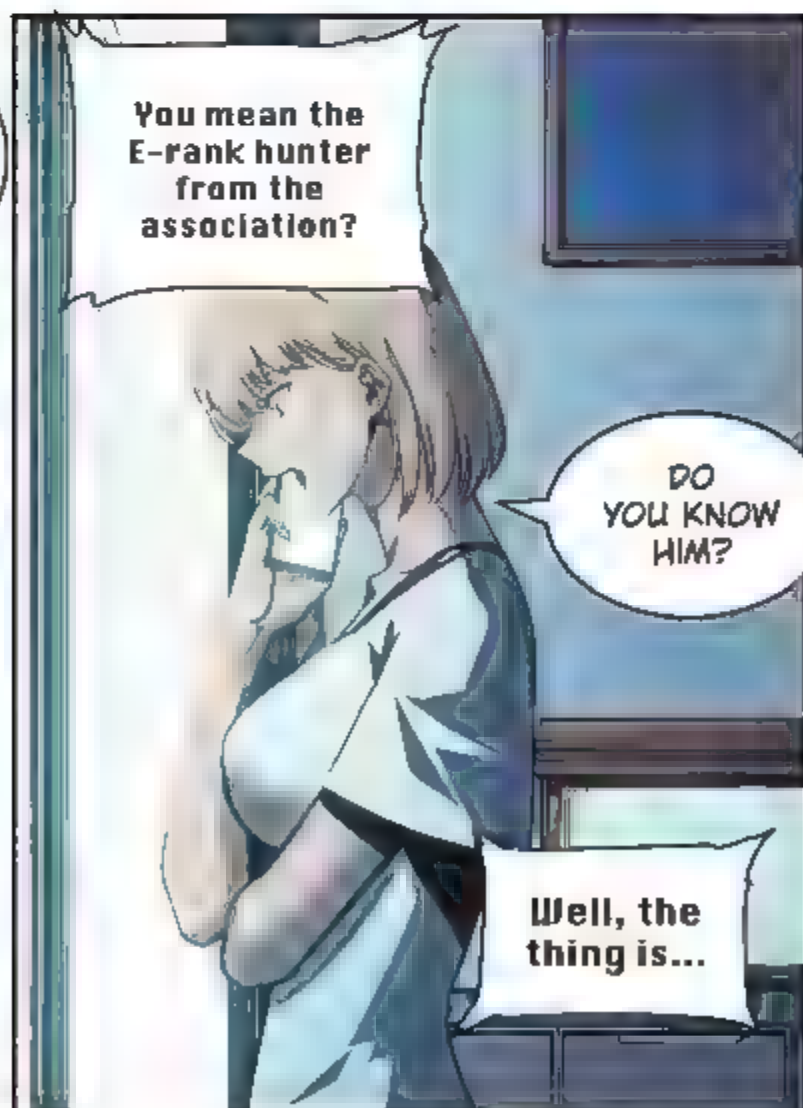


WAS IT JUST
A COINCIDENCE
THAT HE GOT LOST IN
THAT HUGE DUNGEON
AND RAN INTO ME IN
FRONT OF THE
BOSS'S LAIR?

NOT A
CHANCE.

IS HE A SPY
FROM ANOTHER
GUILD...? I CAN'T
JUST LET THIS
GO.

Hm?
No way...



You mean the
E-rank hunter
from the
association?

DO
YOU KNOW
HIM?

Well, the
thing is...



President Choi made a similar request yesterday.

PRESIDENT CHOI DID?

He asked me for more information about Jinwoo.



DO YOU KNOW WHY?

No, I don't...

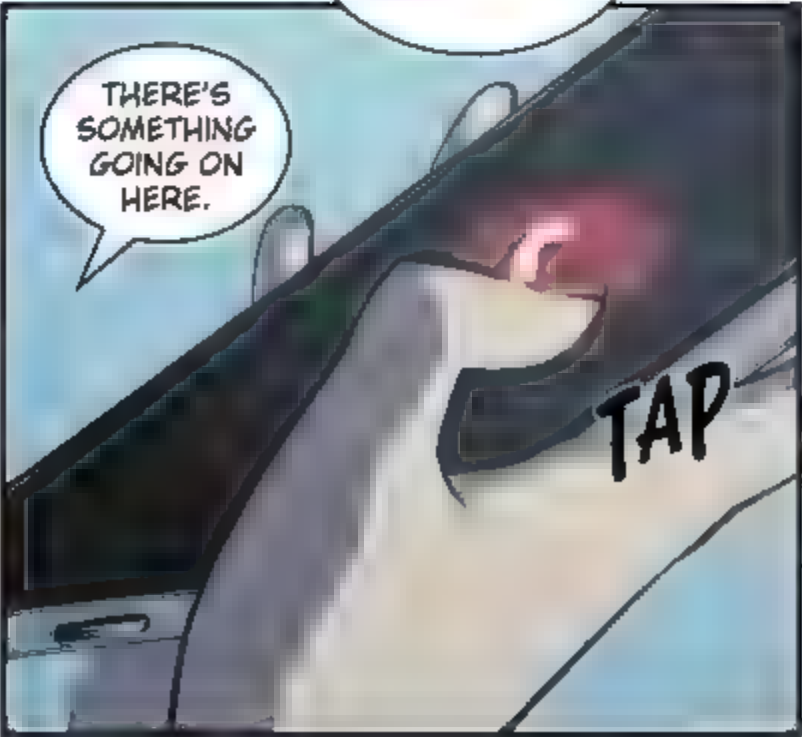


I tried my best, but the association has classified it all.

I've never seen them lock the information of a regular hunter, only high-ranking ones.

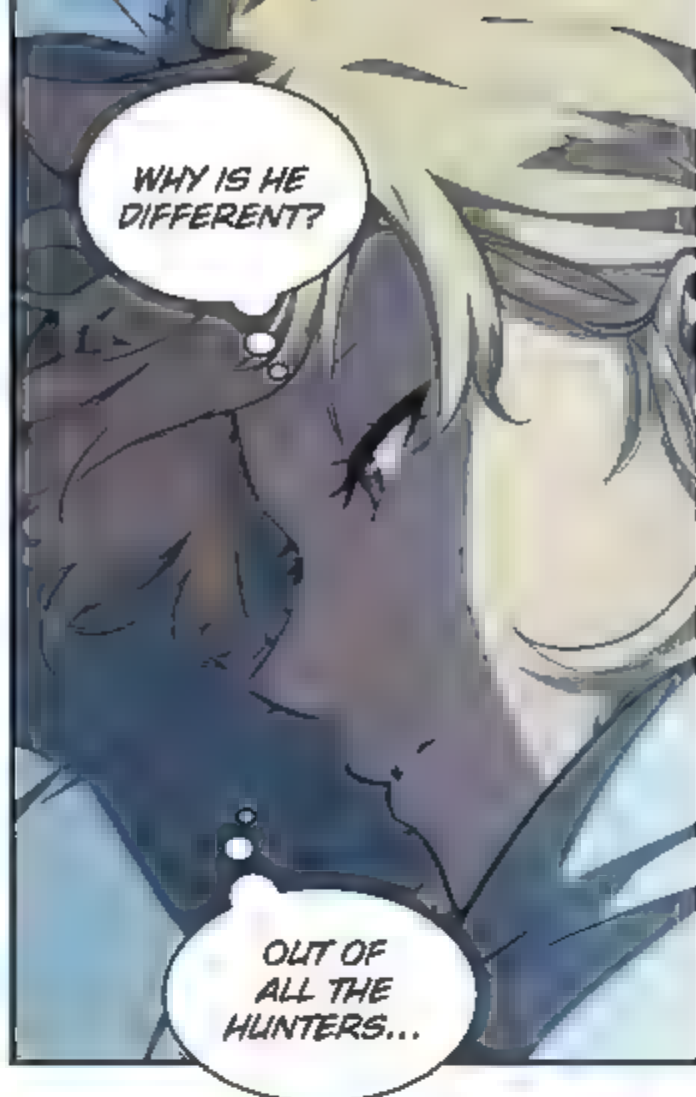
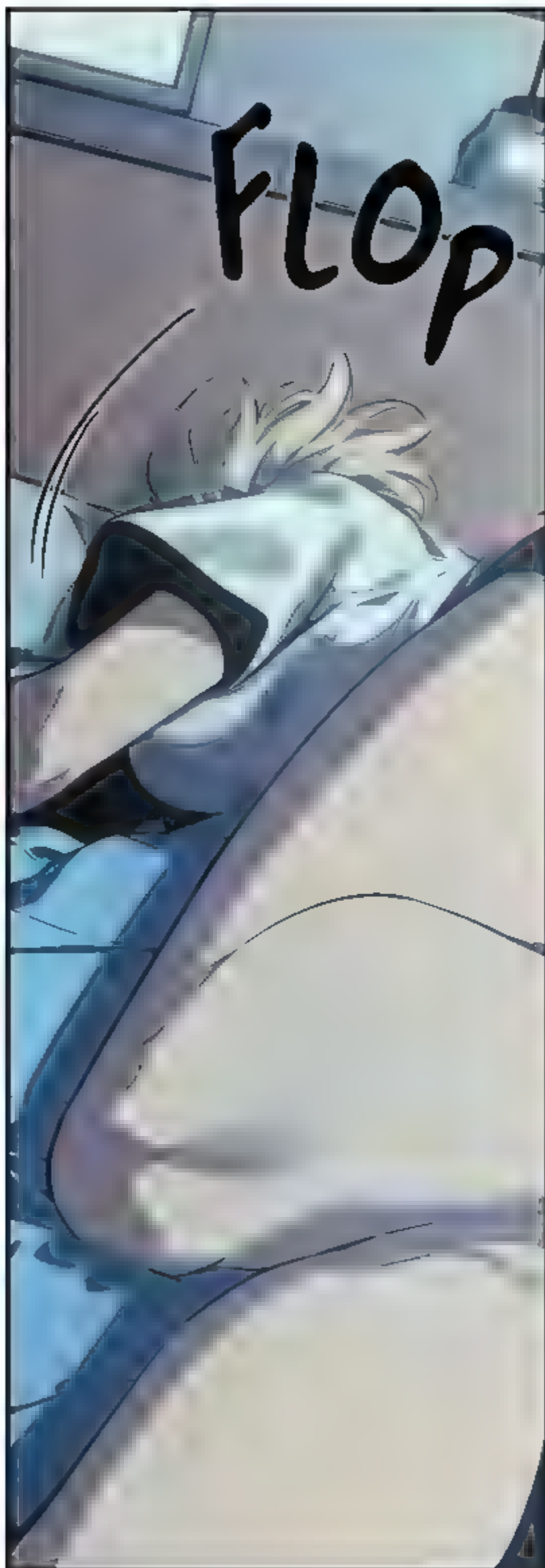
AN E-RANK HUNTER WHOSE IDENTITY IS OF INTEREST TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUNTERS GUILD, BUT...

...WHOSE INFORMATION IS BEING CLOSELY GUARDED BY THE ASSOCIATION?



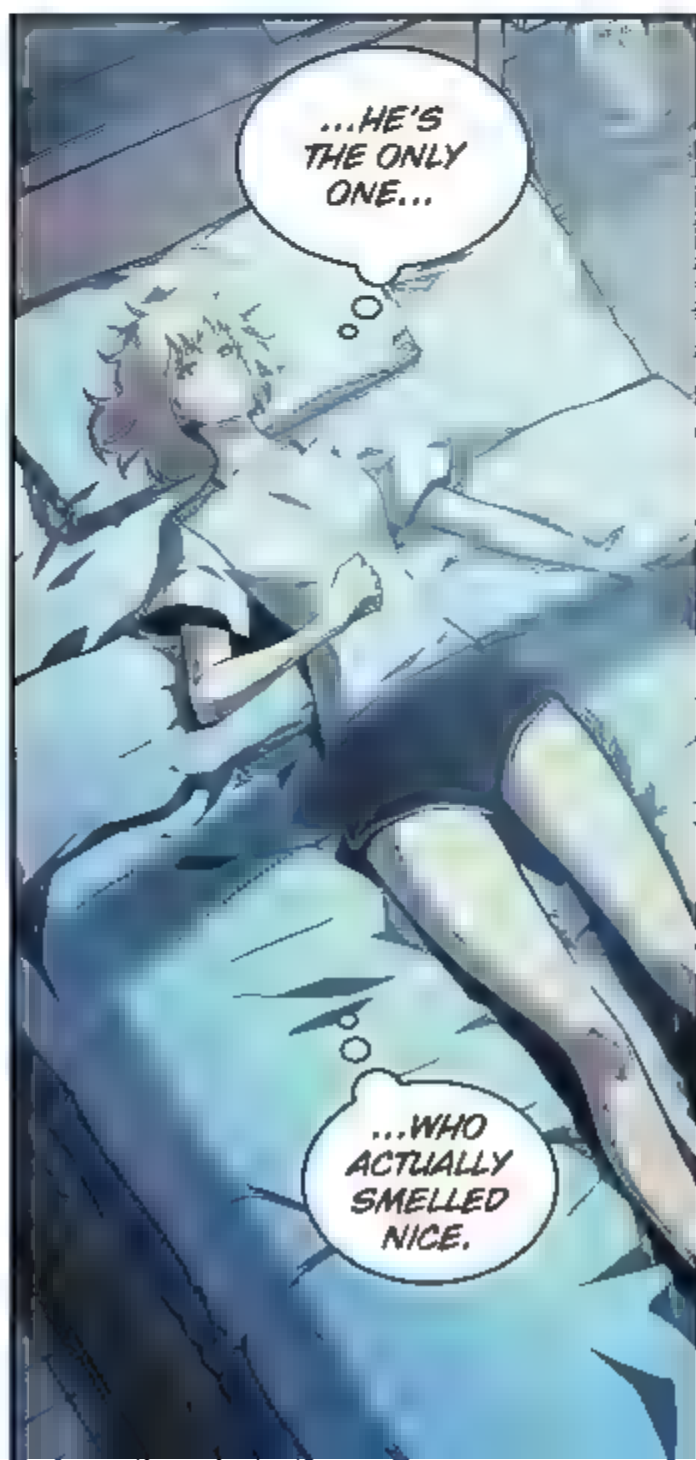
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON HERE.

TAP



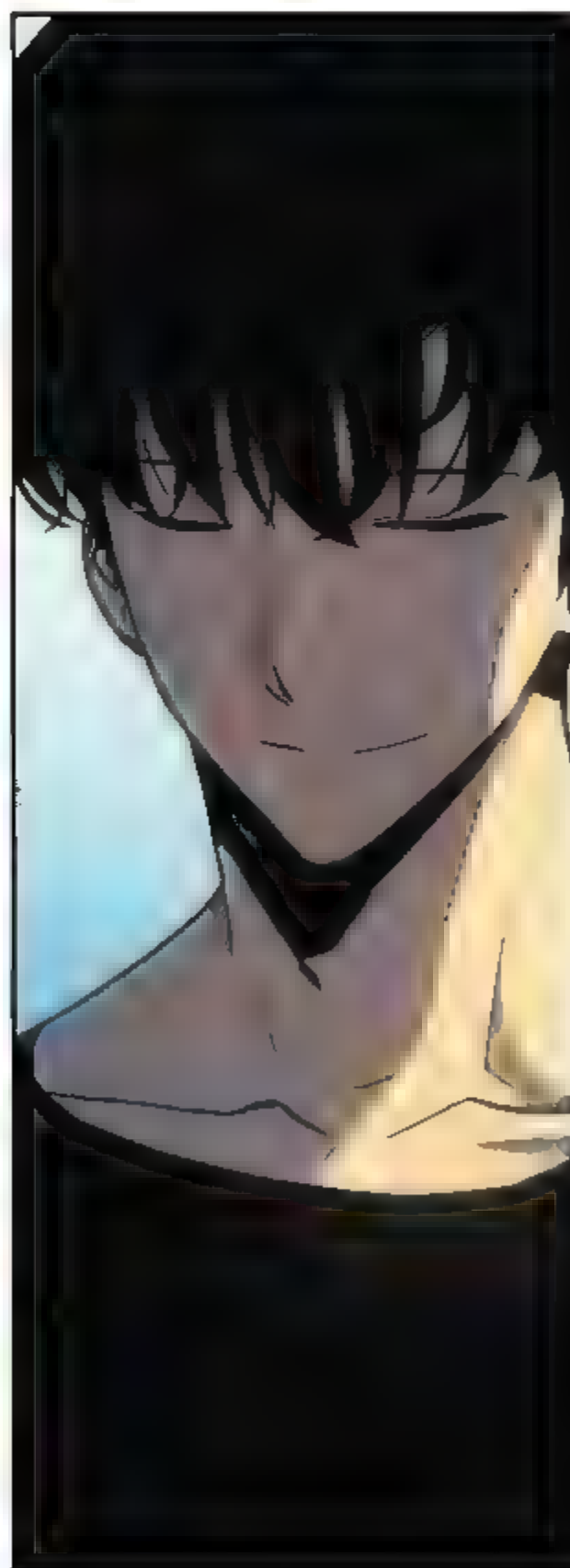
WHY IS HE
DIFFERENT?

OUT OF
ALL THE
HUNTERS...



...HE'S
THE ONLY
ONE...

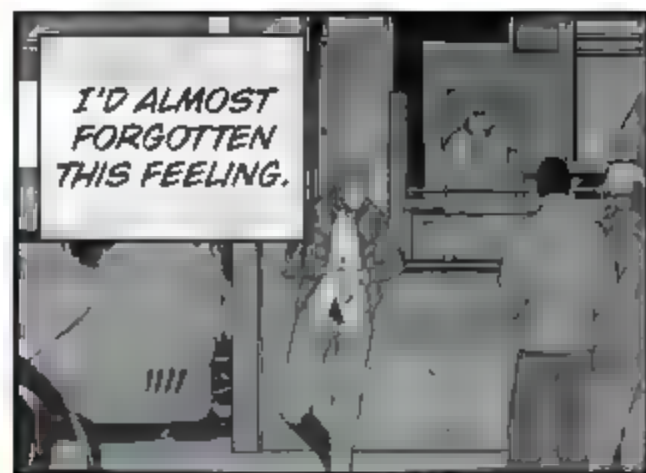
...WHO
ACTUALLY
SMELLED
NICE.





JOIN US
FOR LUNCH
TODAY!

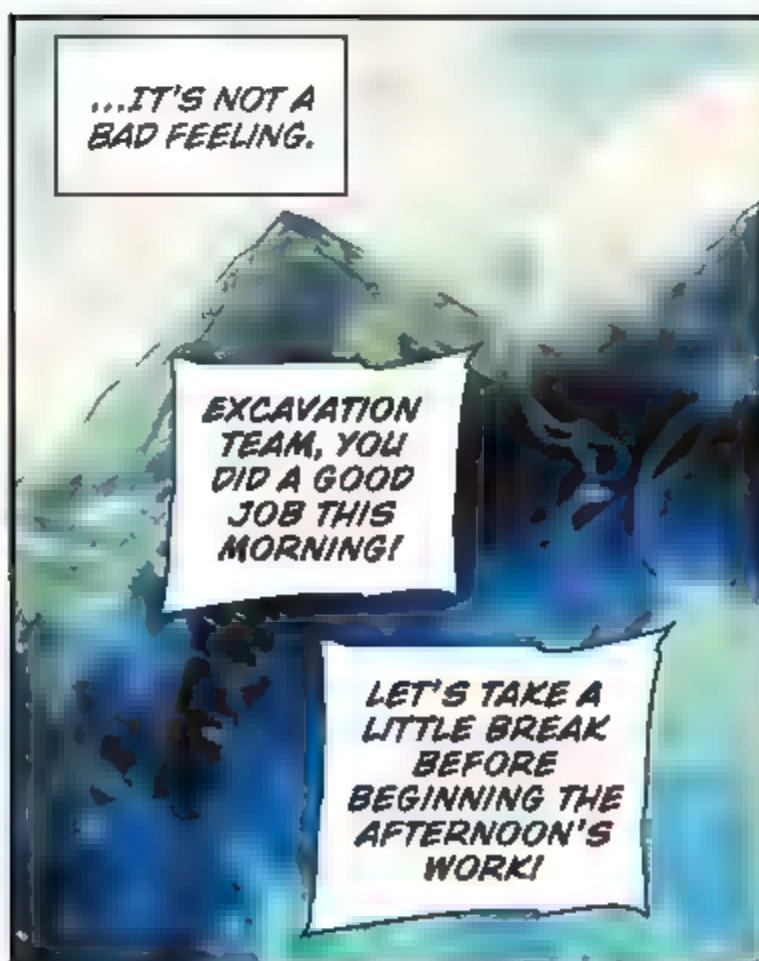
EAT A LATE
BREAKFAST
AGAIN?



I'D ALMOST
FORGOTTEN
THIS FEELING.



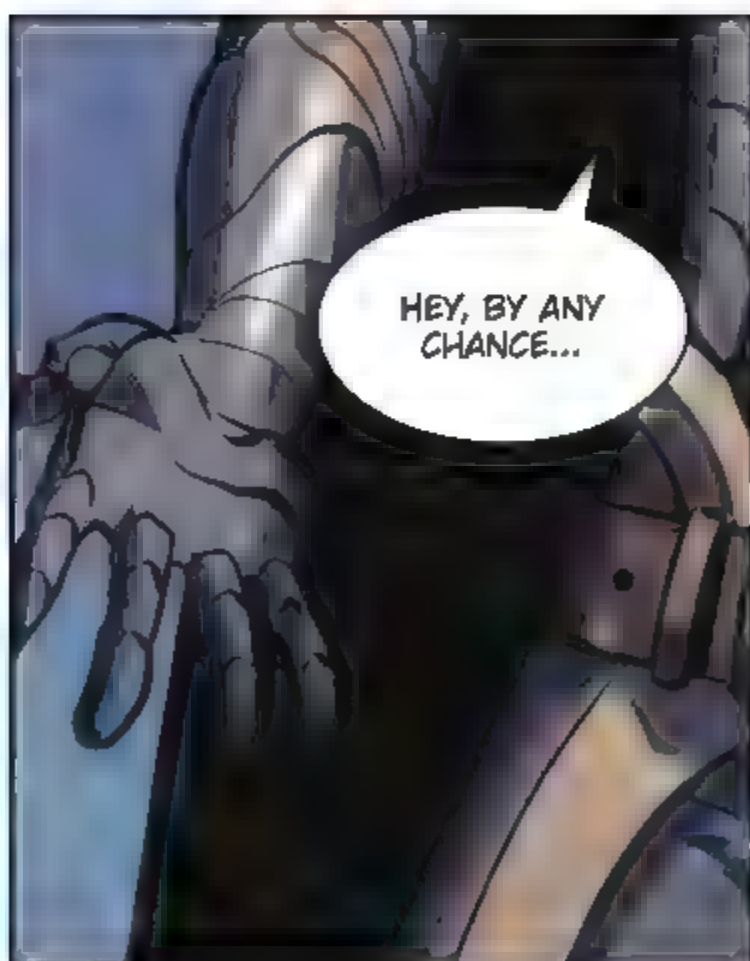
THIS
ATMOSPHERE
BRINGS BACK
SO MANY
MEMORIES.



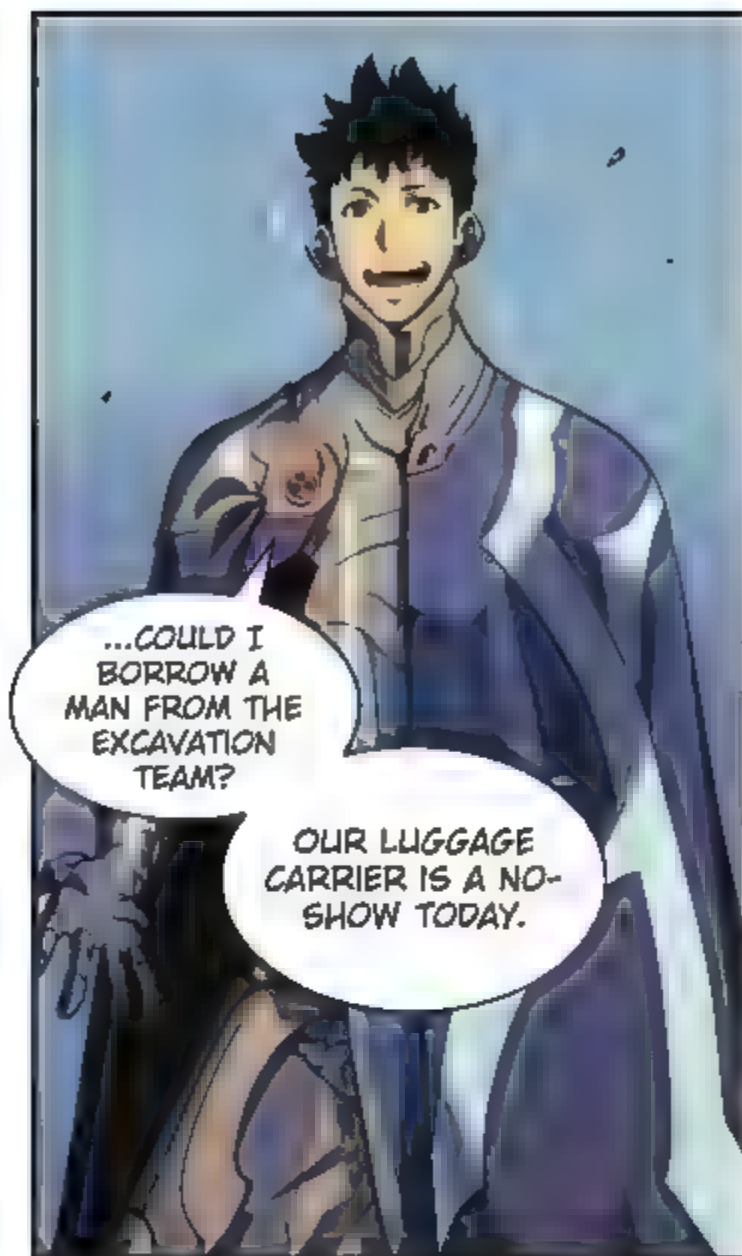
...IT'S NOT A
BAD FEELING.

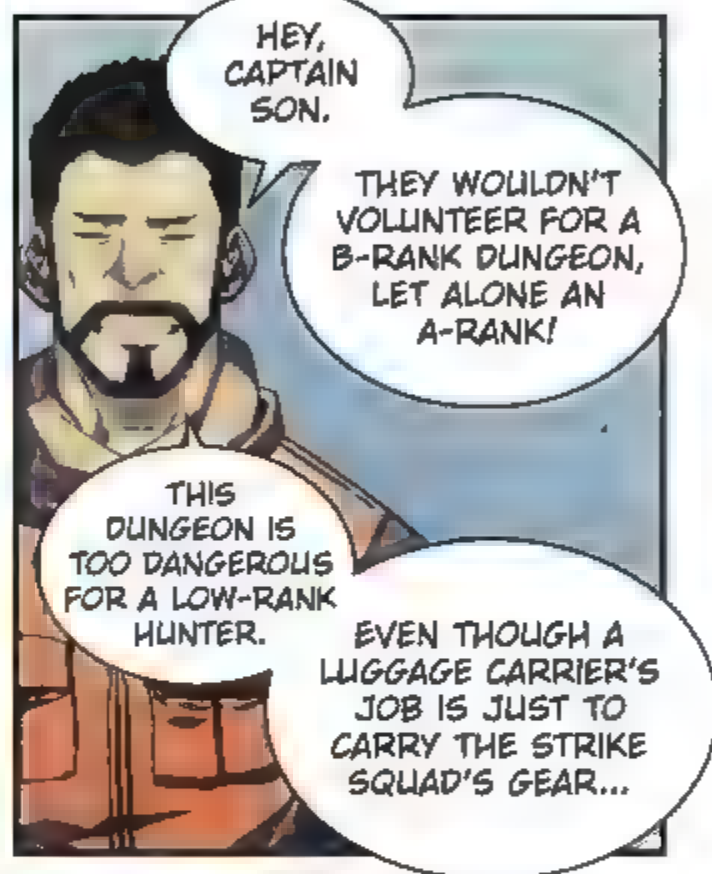
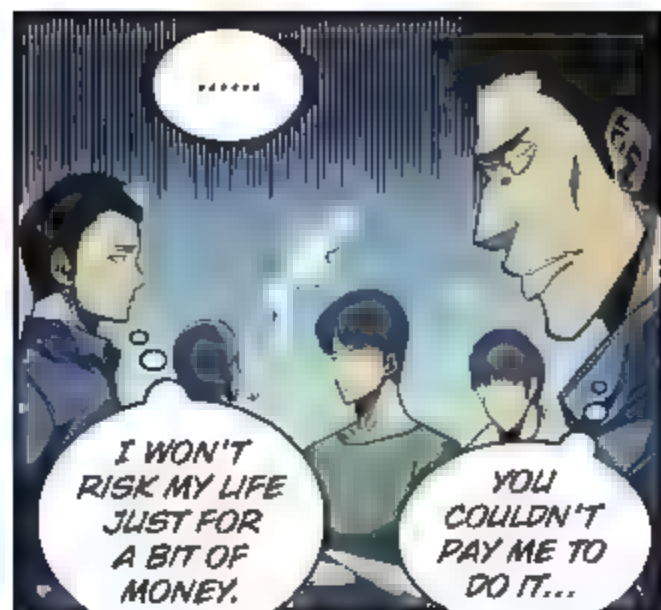
EXCAVATION
TEAM, YOU
DID A GOOD
JOB THIS
MORNING!

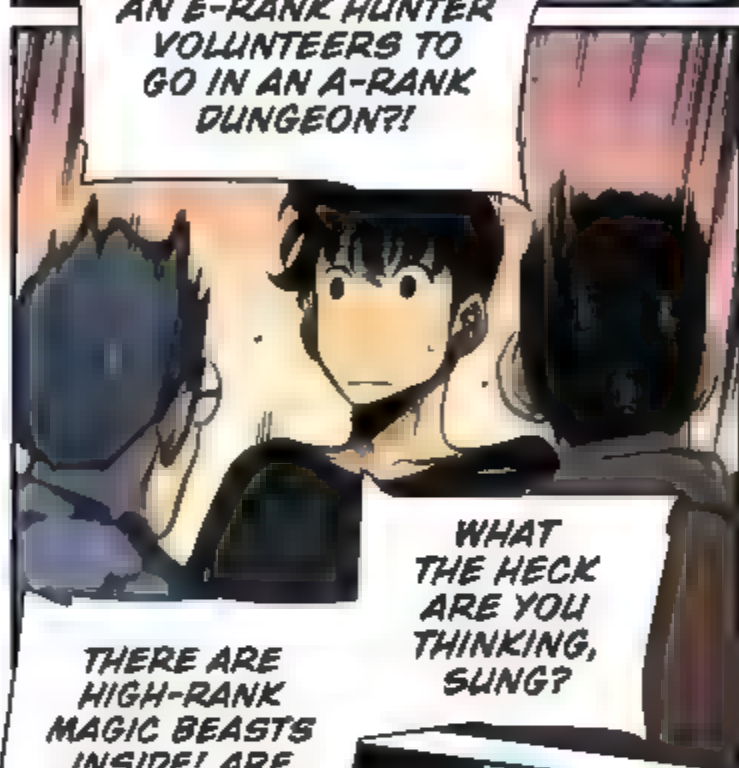
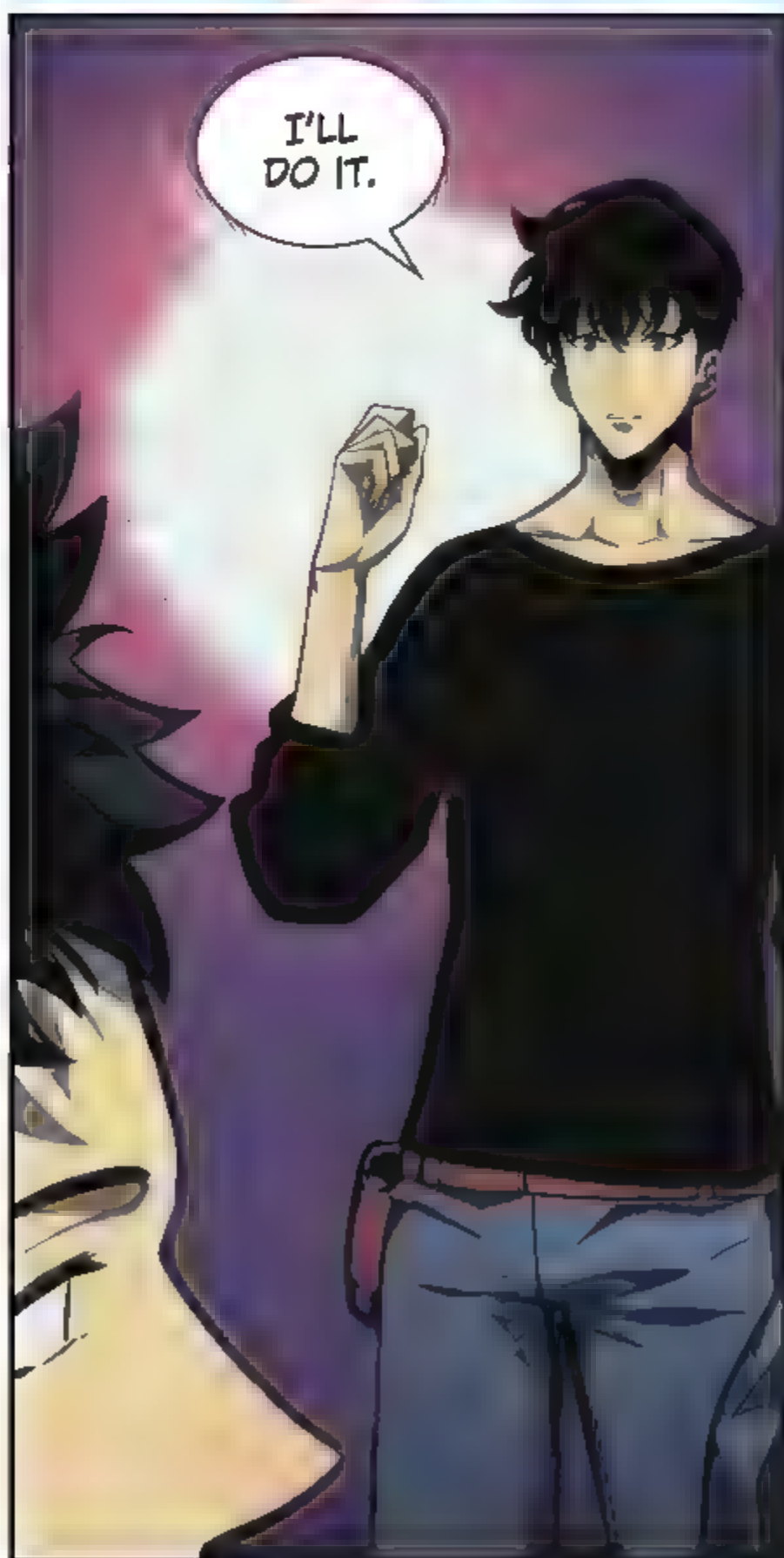
LET'S TAKE A
LITTLE BREAK
BEFORE
BEGINNING THE
AFTERNOON'S
WORK!



HEY, BY ANY
CHANCE...

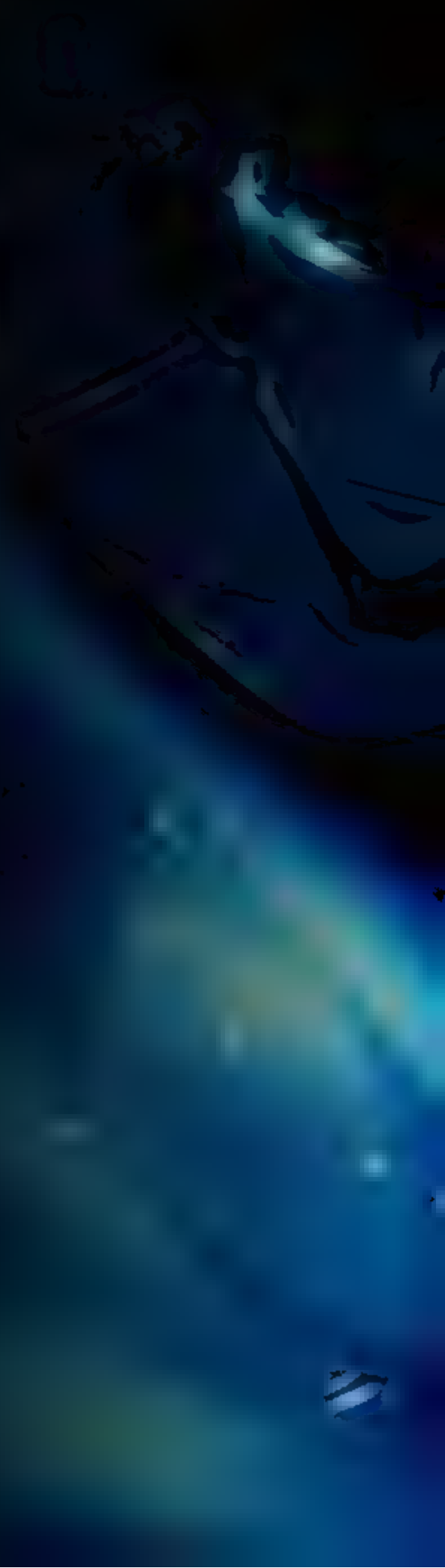




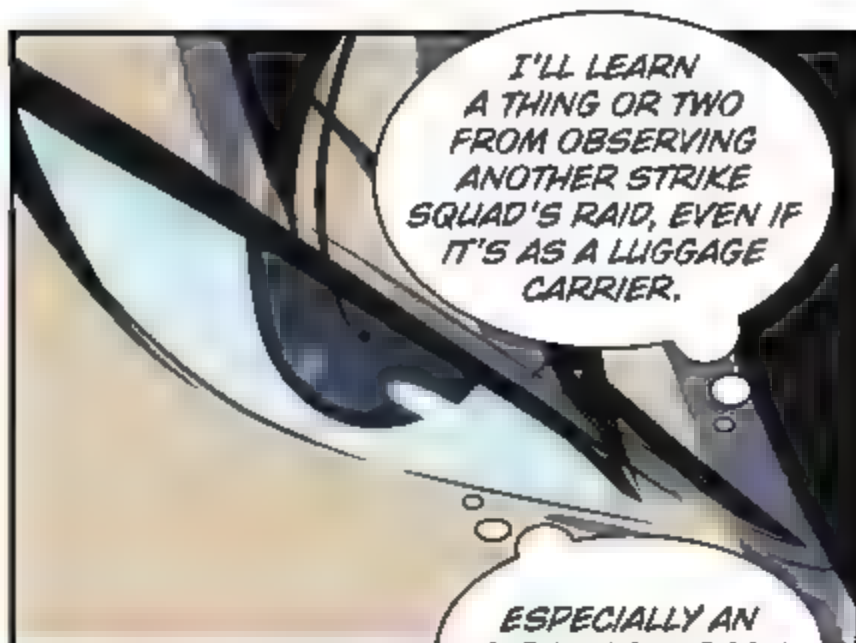


CHAPTER 12

The S-rank Luggage Carrier



Solo
Leveling



I'LL LEARN
A THING OR TWO
FROM OBSERVING
ANOTHER STRIKE
SQUAD'S RAID, EVEN IF
IT'S AS A LUGGAGE
CARRIER.

ESPECIALLY AN
A-RANK DUNGEON
RAID!



HA! THAT
KID ONLY STARTED
WORKING YESTERDAY,
SO HE'S VOLUNTEERING
OUT OF PURE
IGNORANCE.

WHAT'S HIS
RANK?

HE'S AN
E-RANK, WHICH
IS TOO LOW.
WHY DON'T YOU
PICK SOMEONE
ELSE?



NO, HE'S
FINE.



NICE TO
MEET YOU.

I'M
JINWOO
SLUNG.

I'M KIHON
SON, CAPTAIN
OF THE STRIKE
SQUAD.



THAT
PACK TOO
HEAVY?

I'M
GOOD.

LOOKS
LIKE HE CAN
HANDLE IT.



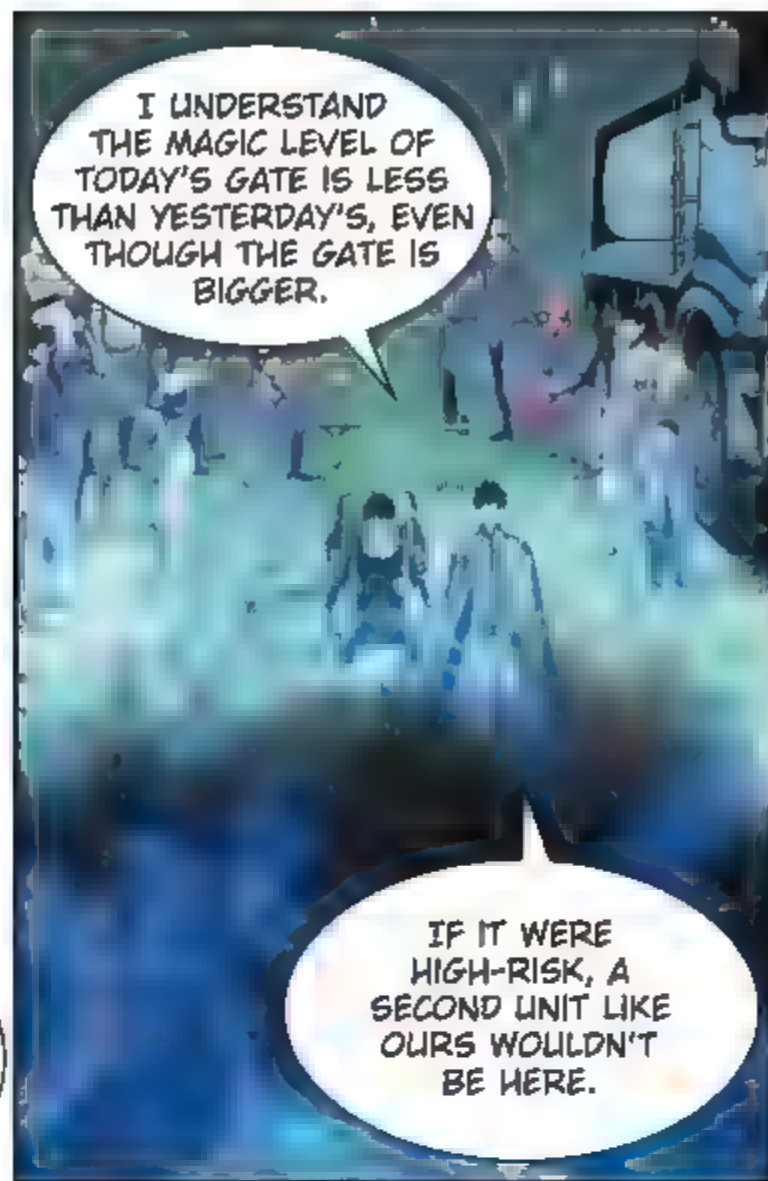
YESTERDAY'S
GATE WAS BIG,
BUT...

...IS THIS
ONE EVEN
BIGGER?

IT'S
HUGE.

I HEARD
YESTERDAY WAS
YOUR FIRST DAY
ON AN EXCAVA-
TION JOB.

SO THIS IS
ONLY THE SECOND
TIME YOU'VE
SEEN AN A-RANK
DUNGEON?



I UNDERSTAND
THE MAGIC LEVEL OF
TODAY'S GATE IS LESS
THAN YESTERDAY'S, EVEN
THOUGH THE GATE IS
BIGGER.

IF IT WERE
HIGH-RISK, A
SECOND UNIT LIKE
OURS WOULDN'T
BE HERE.



THE SECOND
UNIT OF THE
HUNTERS...

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE
IN POWER BETWEEN
THIS UNIT AND
YESTERDAY'S IS
THAT THEY HAVE NO
S-RANKS.



ELEVEN
A-RANKS
AND SIX
B-RANKS.

IN ANY OTHER GUILD,
THE MEMBERS OF THIS
SQUAD WOULD NEVER
BE RELEGATED TO
THE SECOND UNIT.



LET'S
GO IN.

DEFINITELY...
MUCH LESS MAGIC
POWER COMING
OUT COMPARED TO
YESTERDAY.

LOOKS
LIKE THE
ASSOCIATION'S
MEASUREMENT
IS SPOT-
ON...

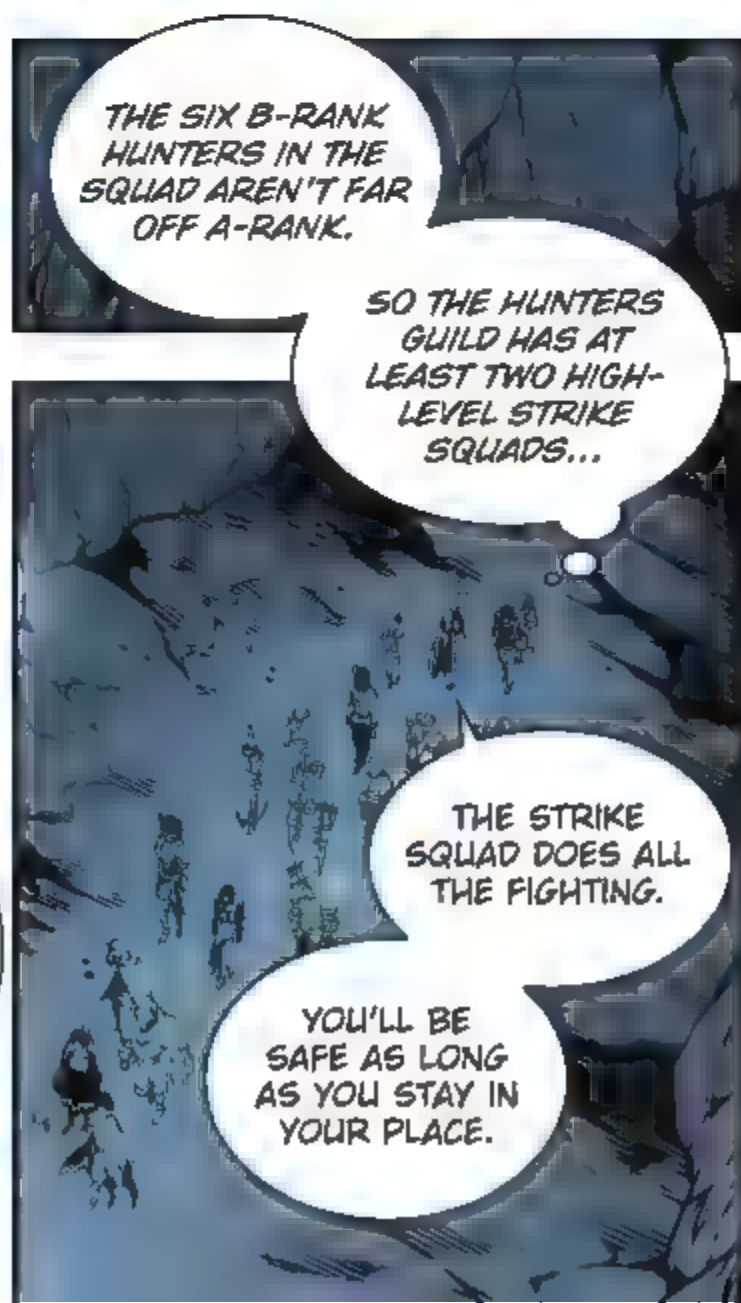
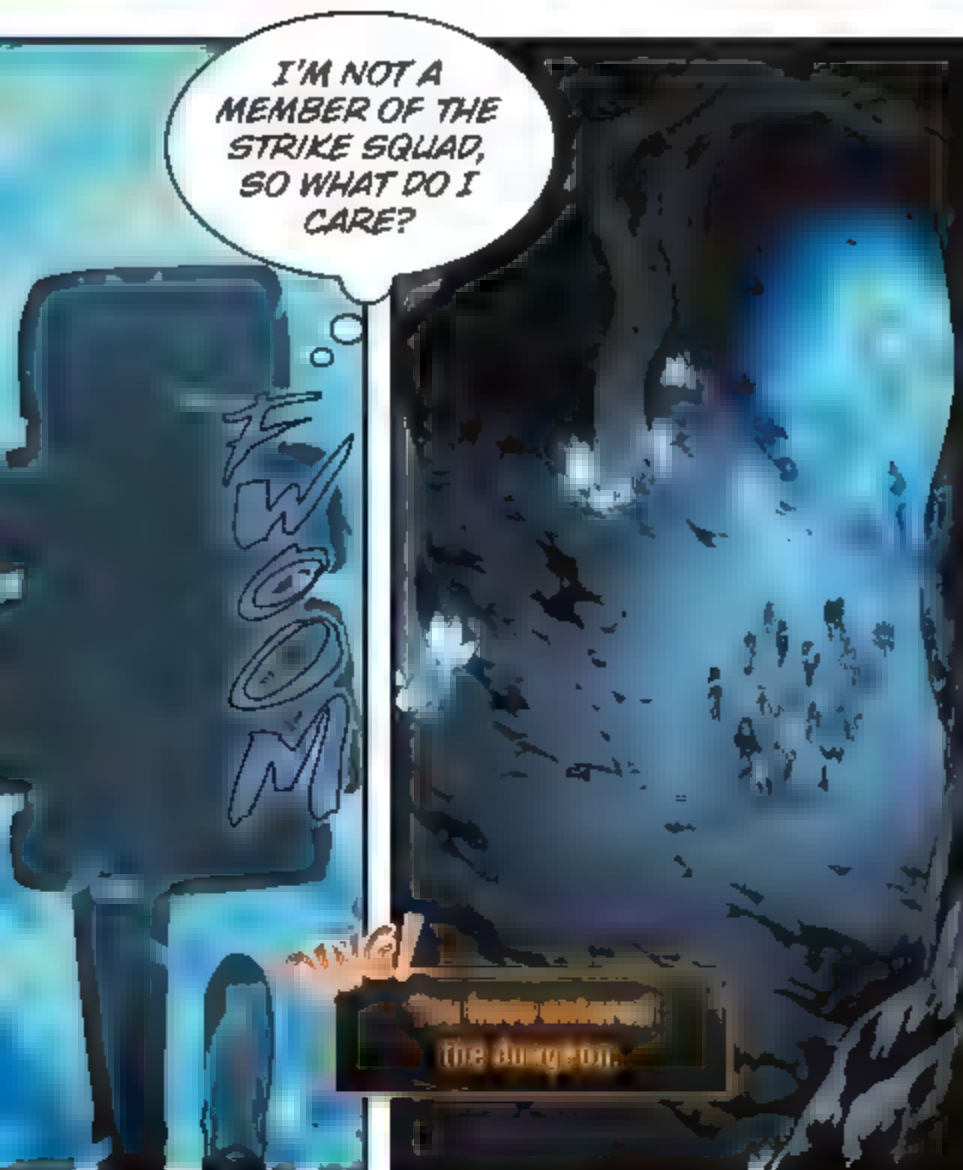
BUT WHAT
IS THIS?

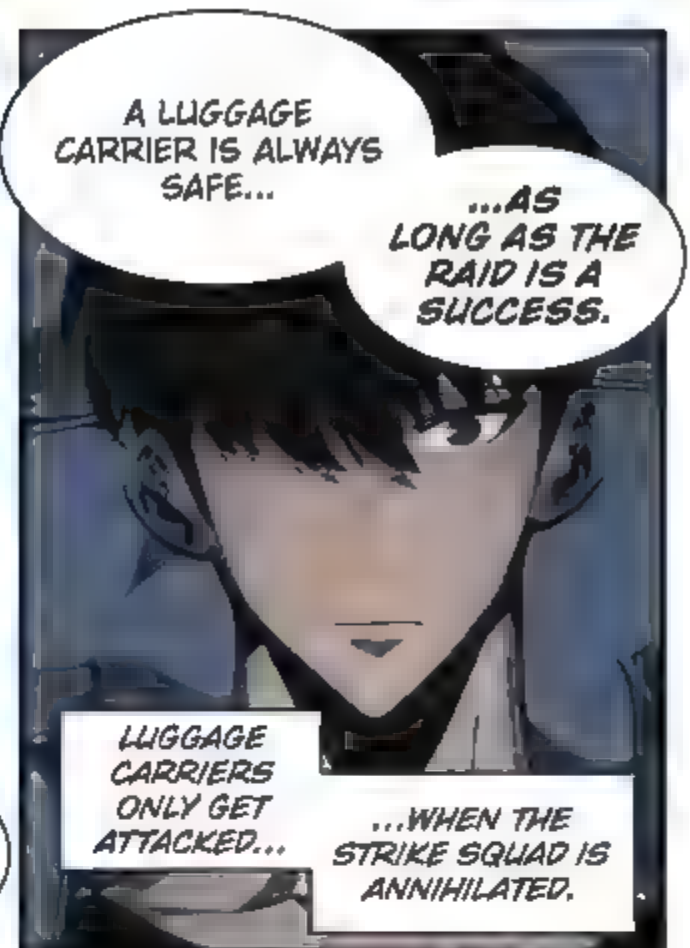
ZZT

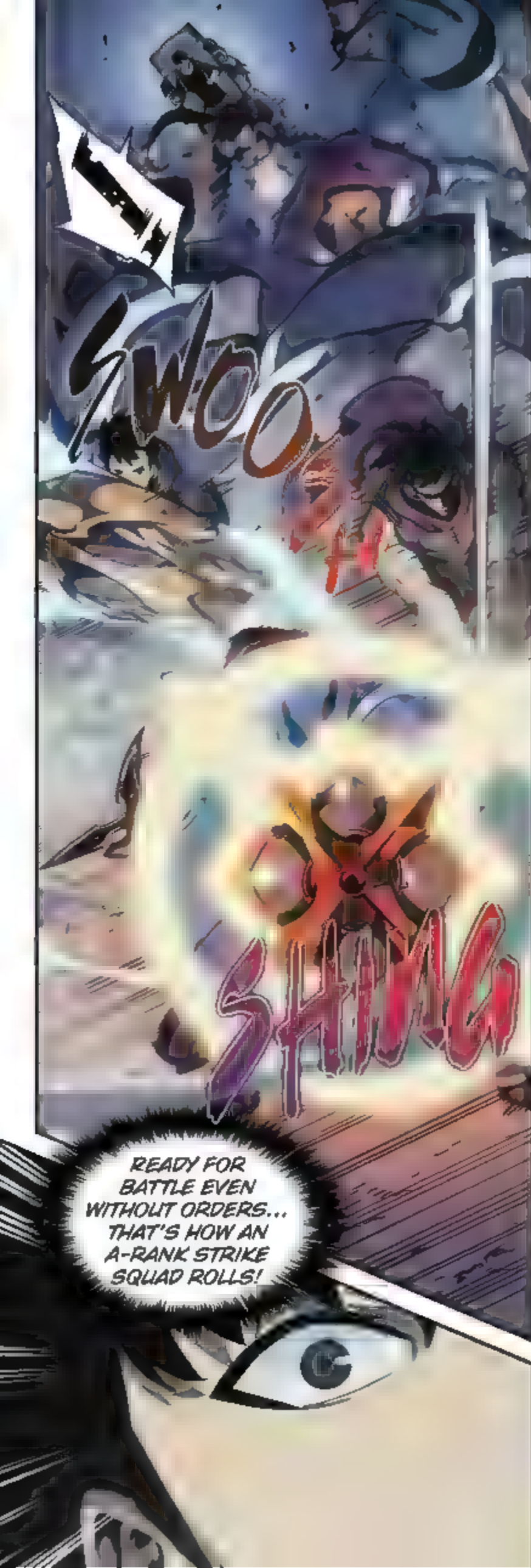
ZZZZT

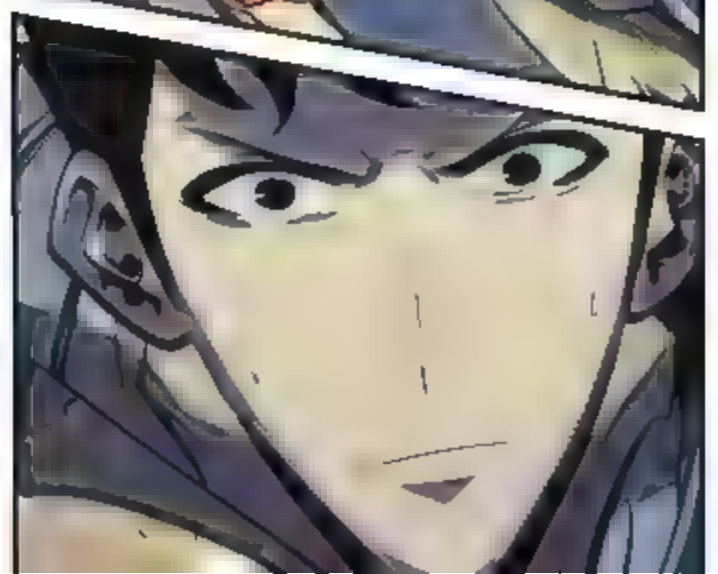
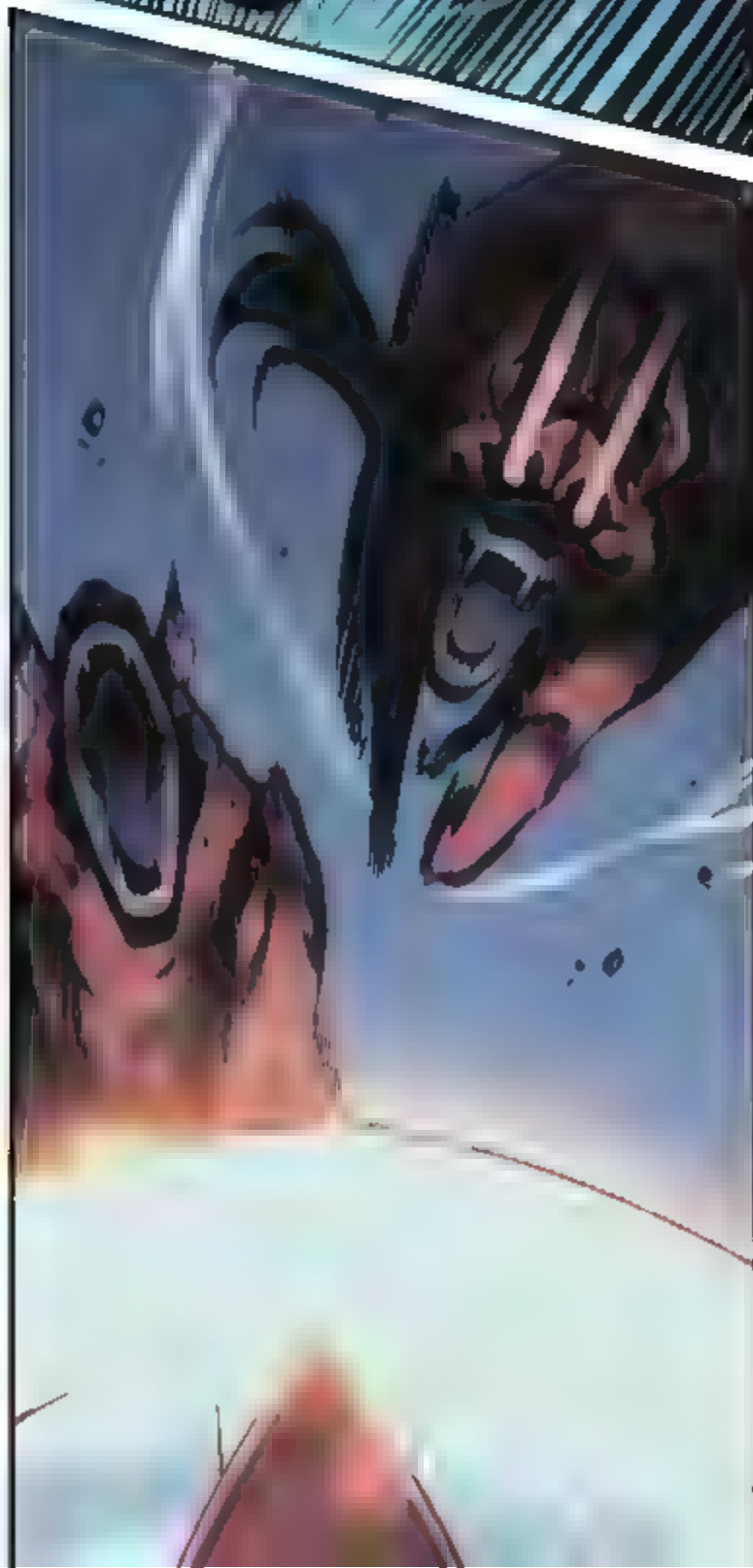
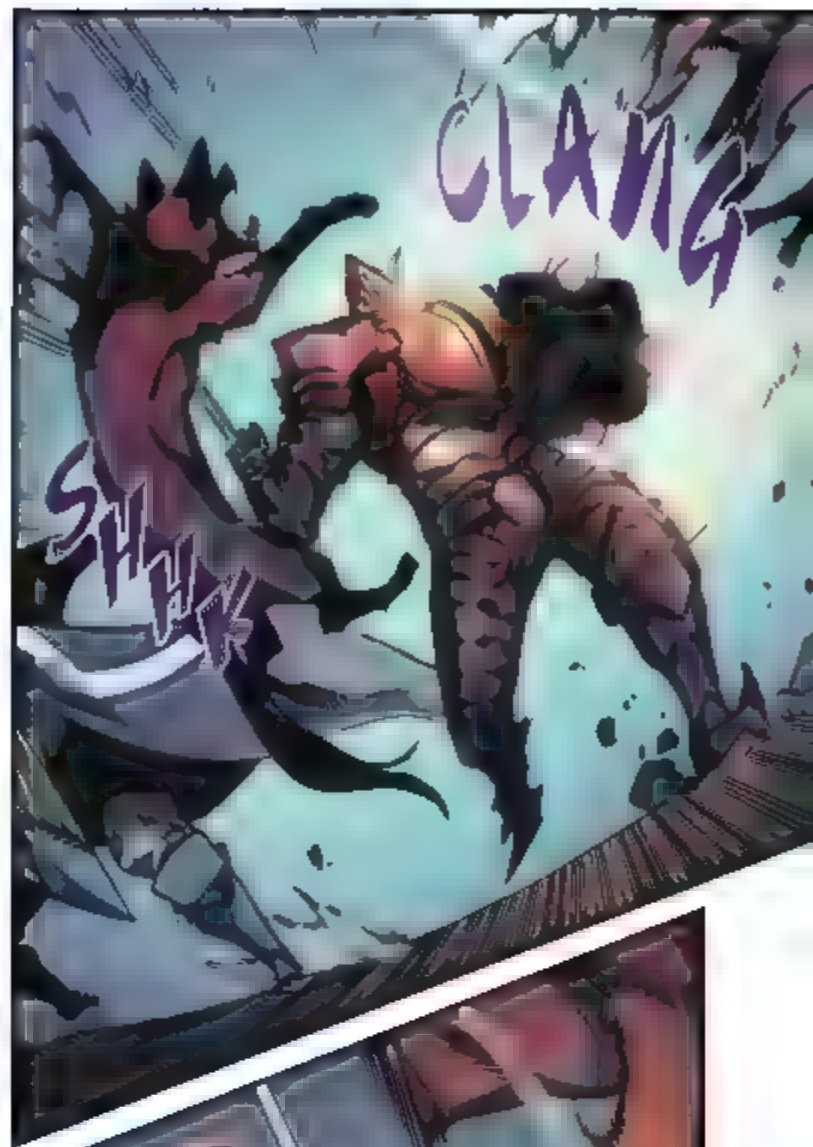
I'VE GOT A BAD
FEELING, JUST LIKE
THE RED GATE.

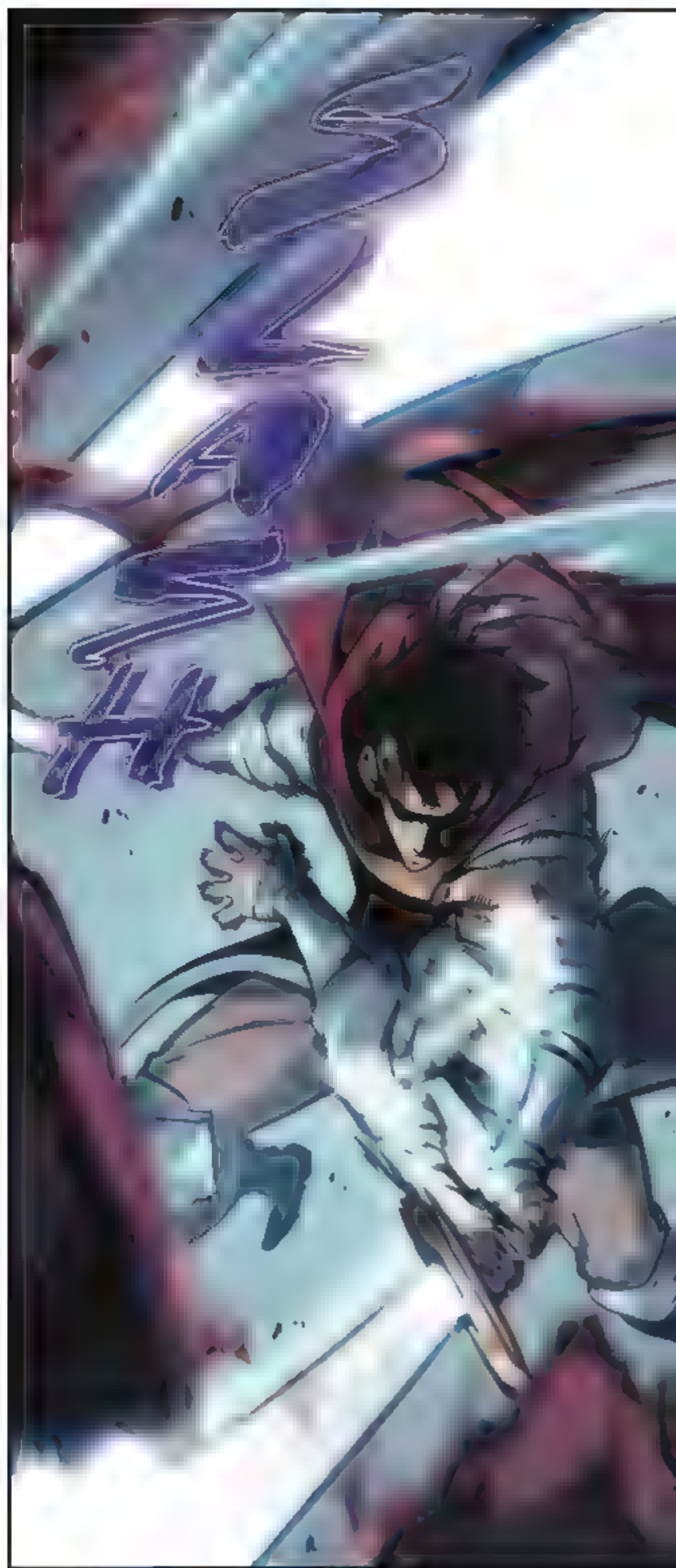
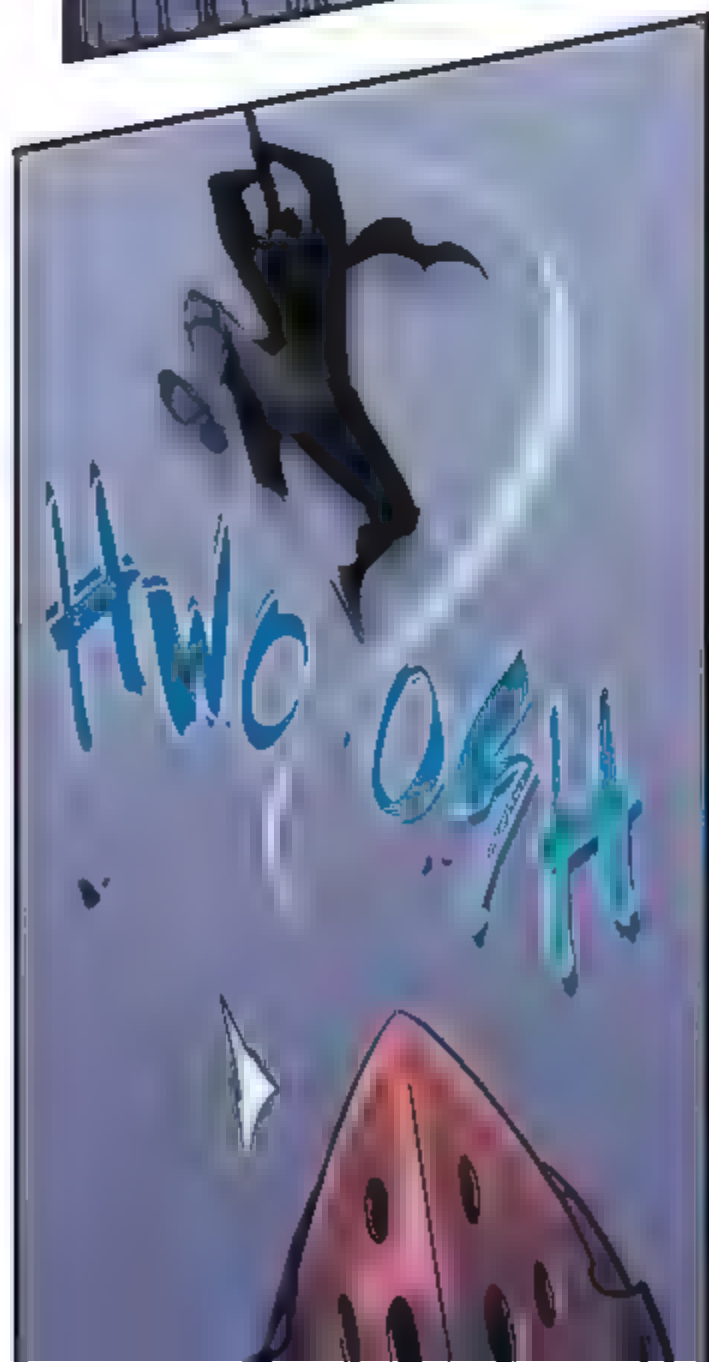
BUT I'M
SURE...IT'S
NOTHING.

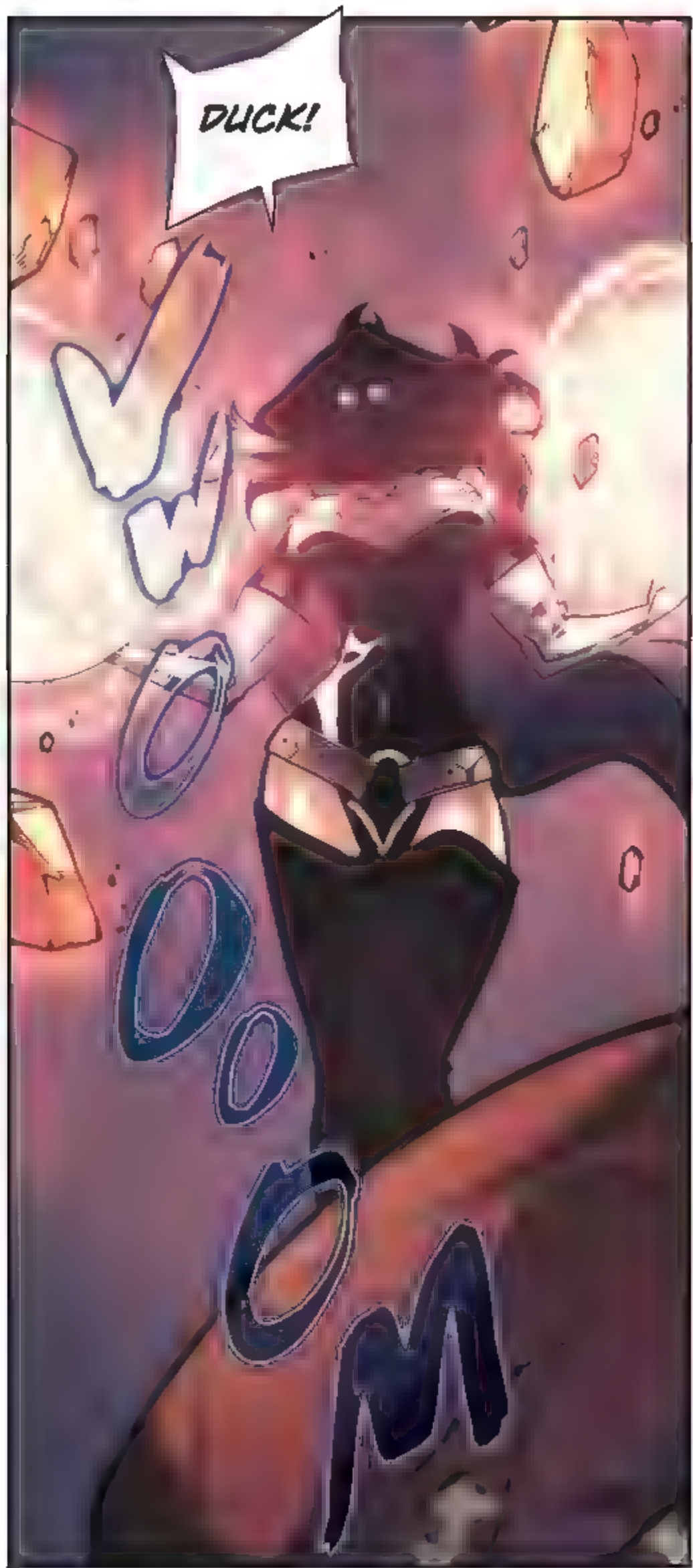


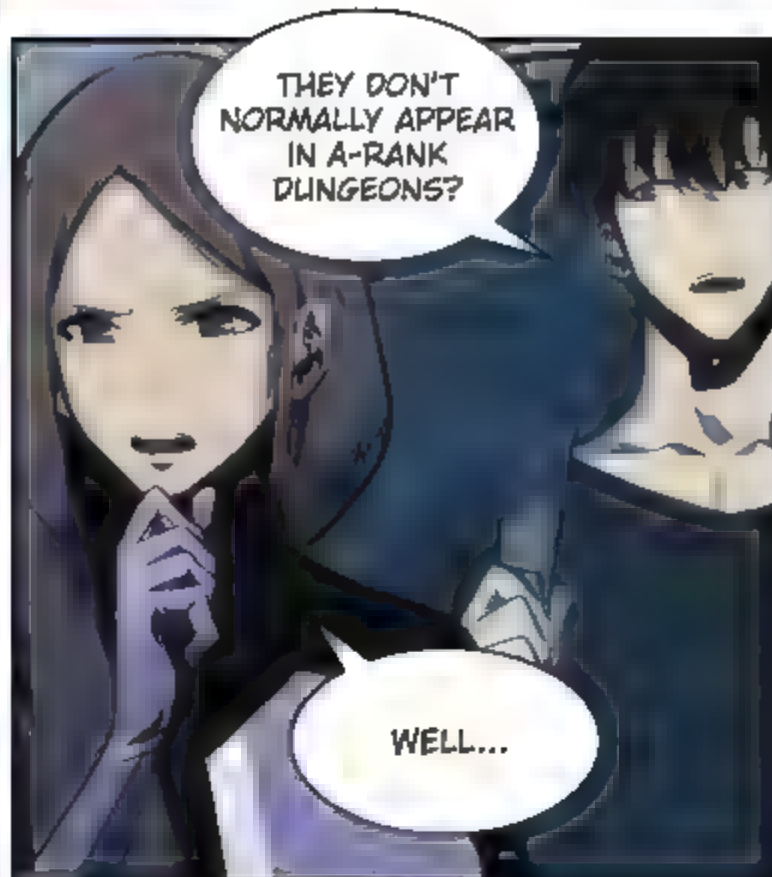












THEY DON'T
NORMALLY APPEAR
IN A-RANK
DUNGEONS?

WELL...



WHAT
WAS
THAT?

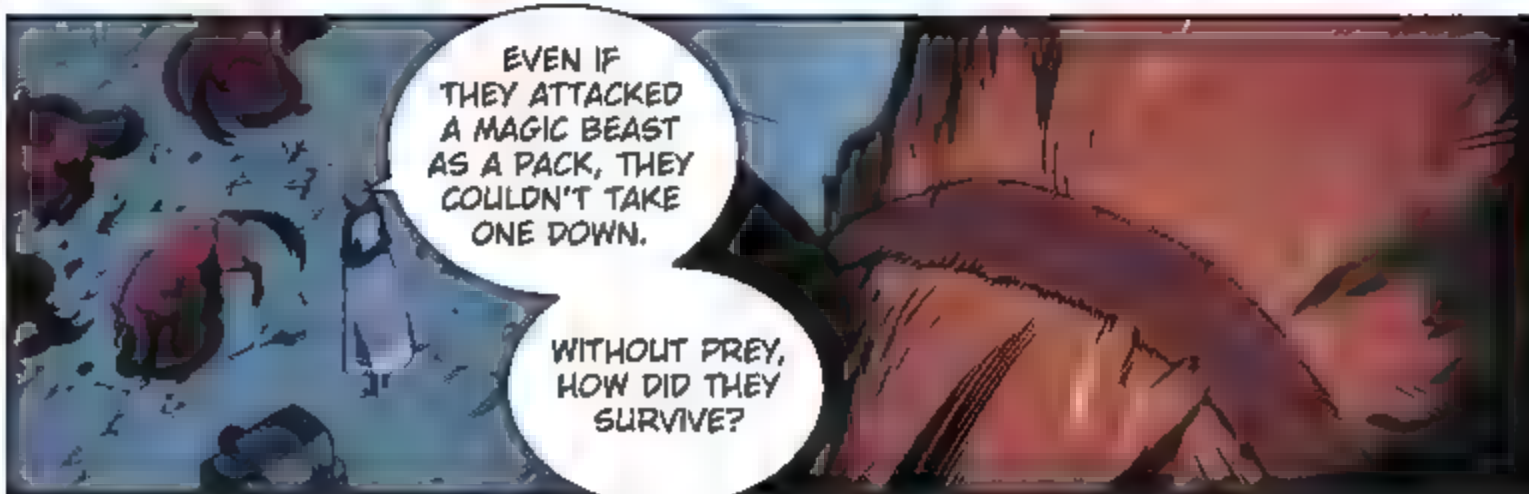
WHY DID
JACKALS SPAWN
IN AN A-RANK
DUNGEON?



...A DUNGEON
JACKAL IS A
C-RANK MAGIC
BEAST.

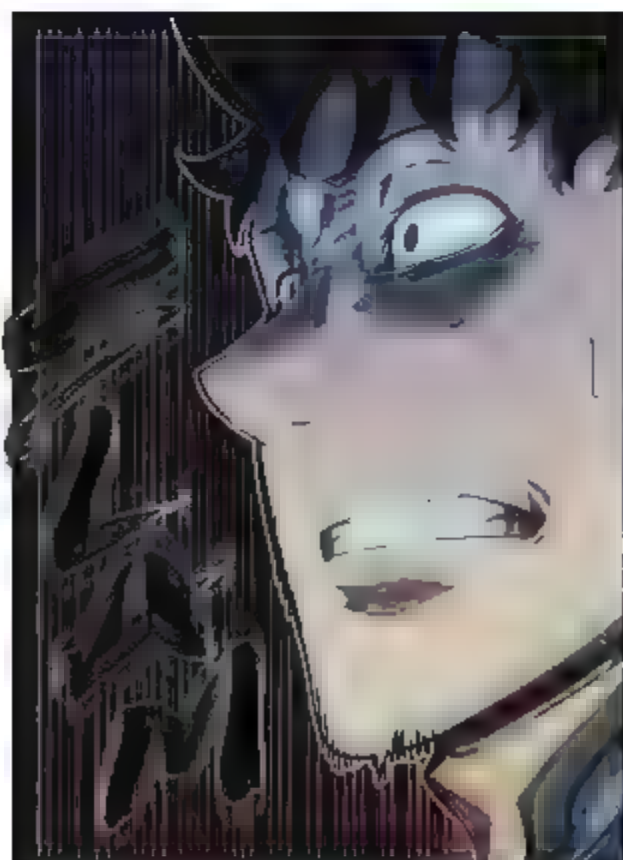
THEY'RE TOO
WEAK TO BE IN AN
A-RANK DUNGEON.
THE DUNGEON FOOD
CHAIN SHOULD'VE
WIPE THEM OUT
BY NOW.

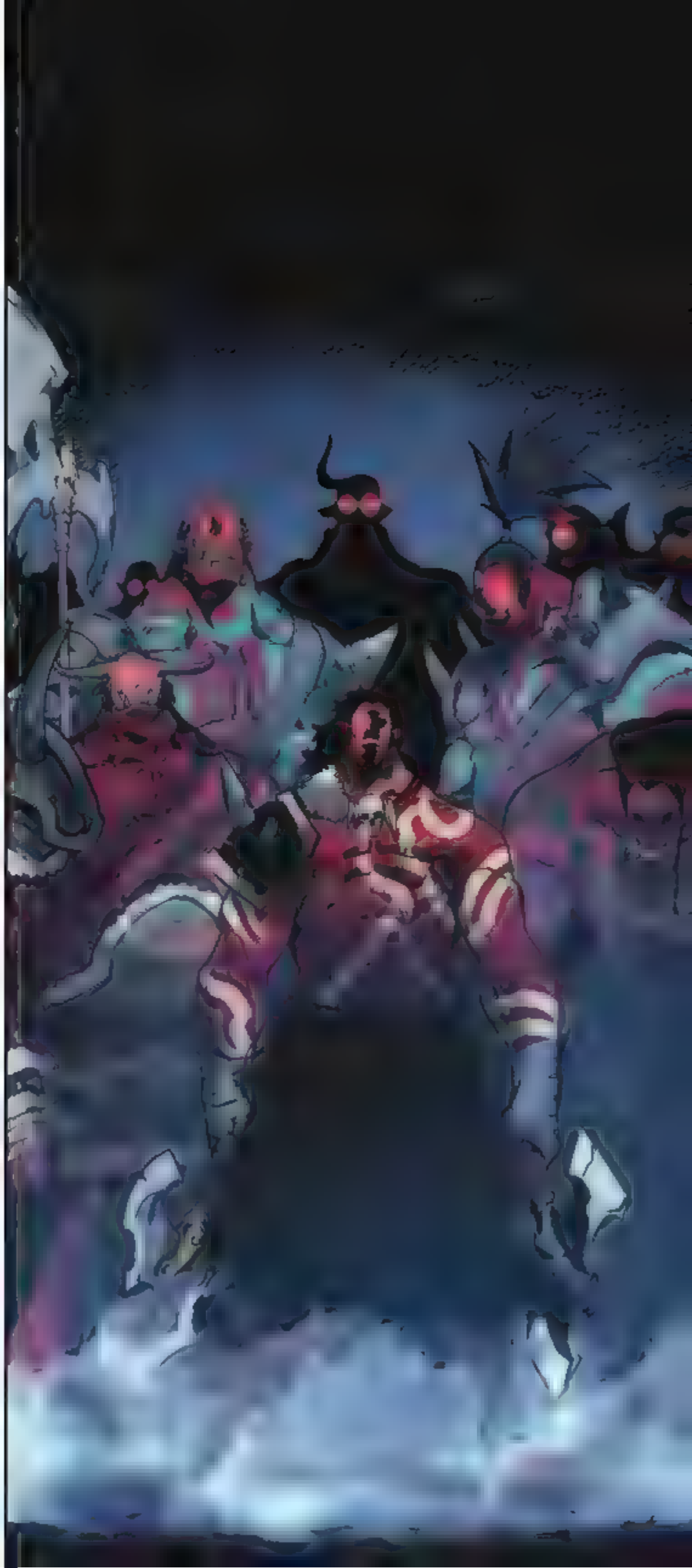
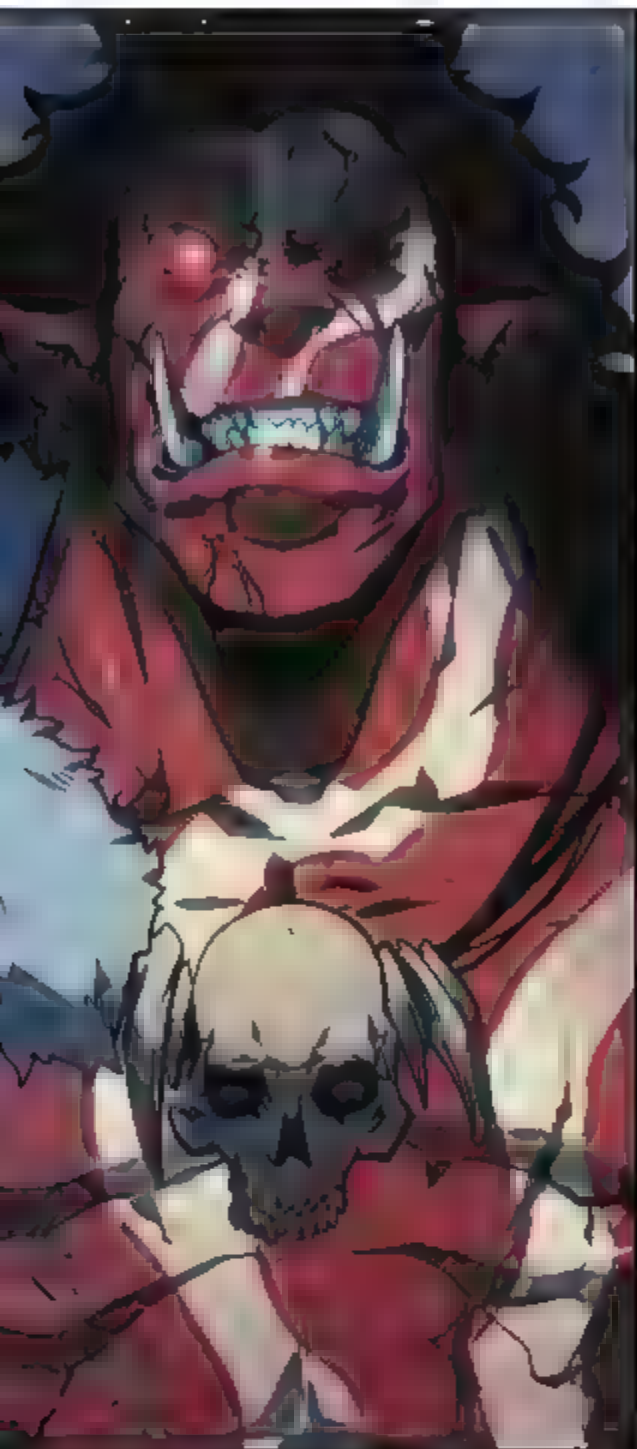
CONSUMED
BY STRONGER
MAGIC BEASTS,
WE SHOULDN'T SEE
THEM IN THESE
NUMBERS...

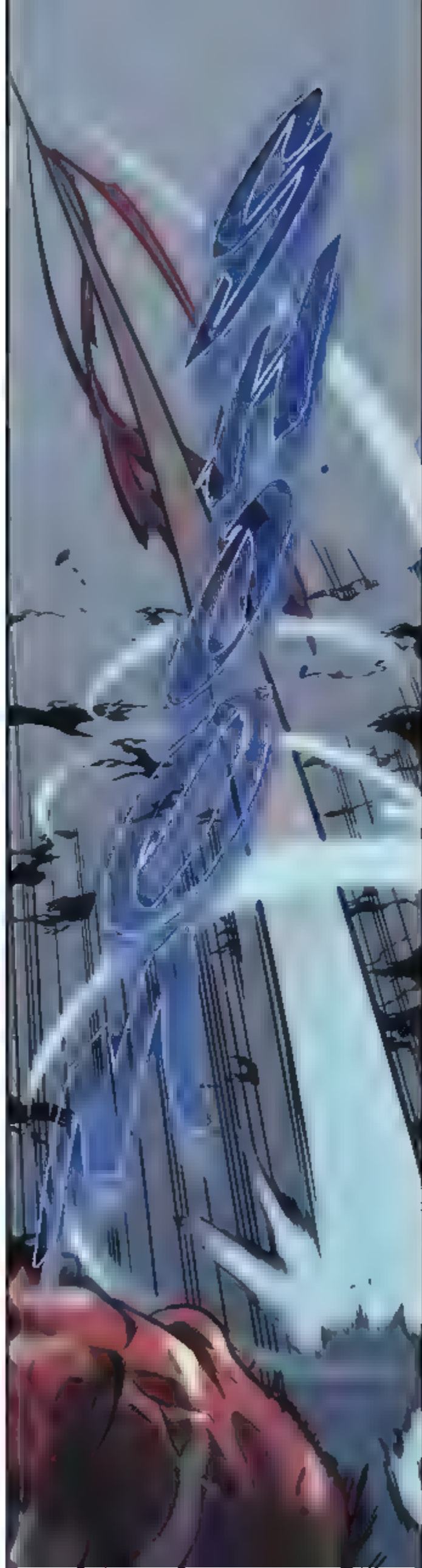
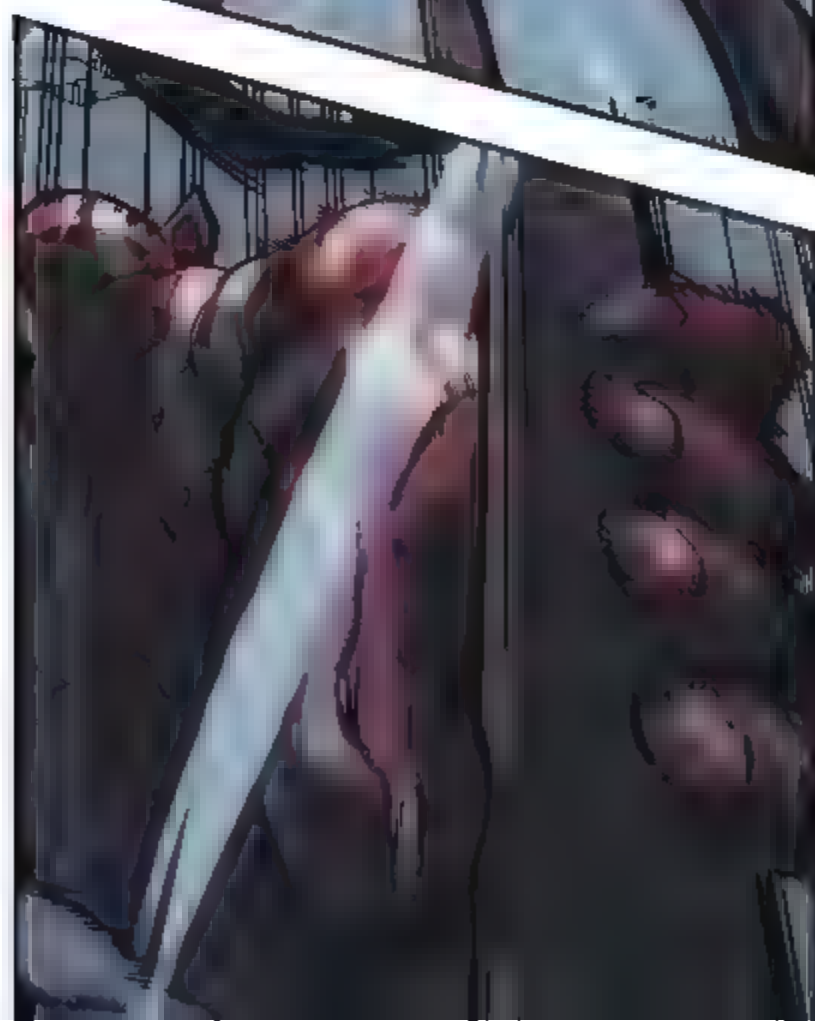
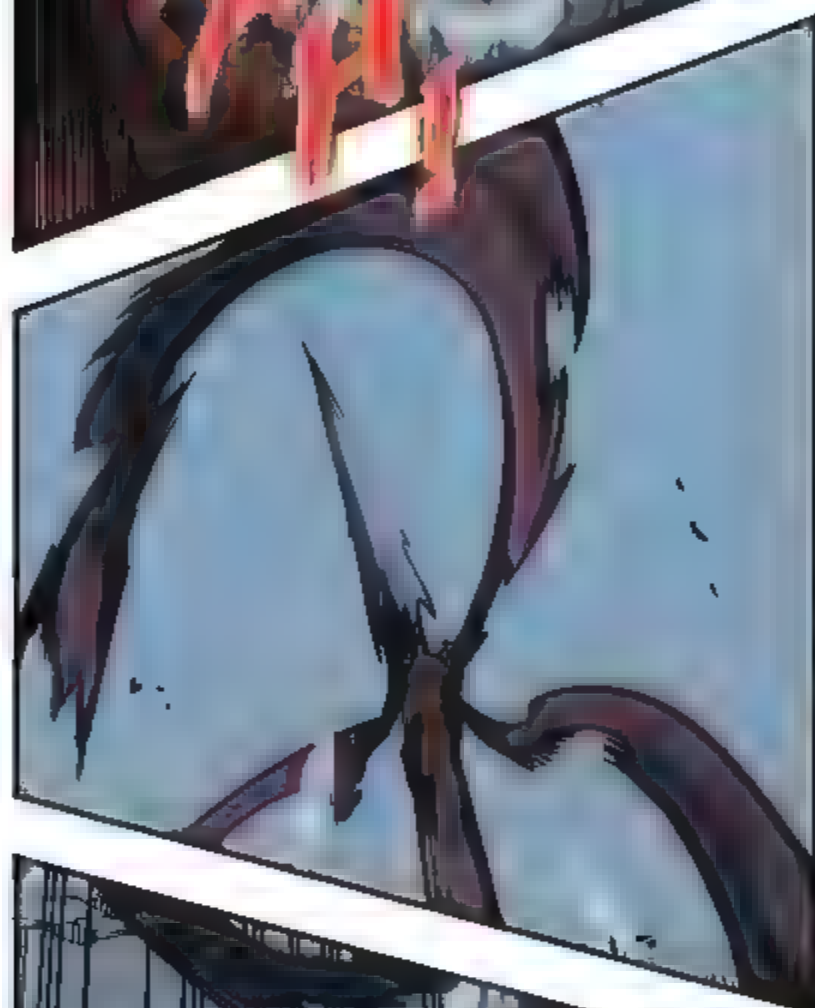
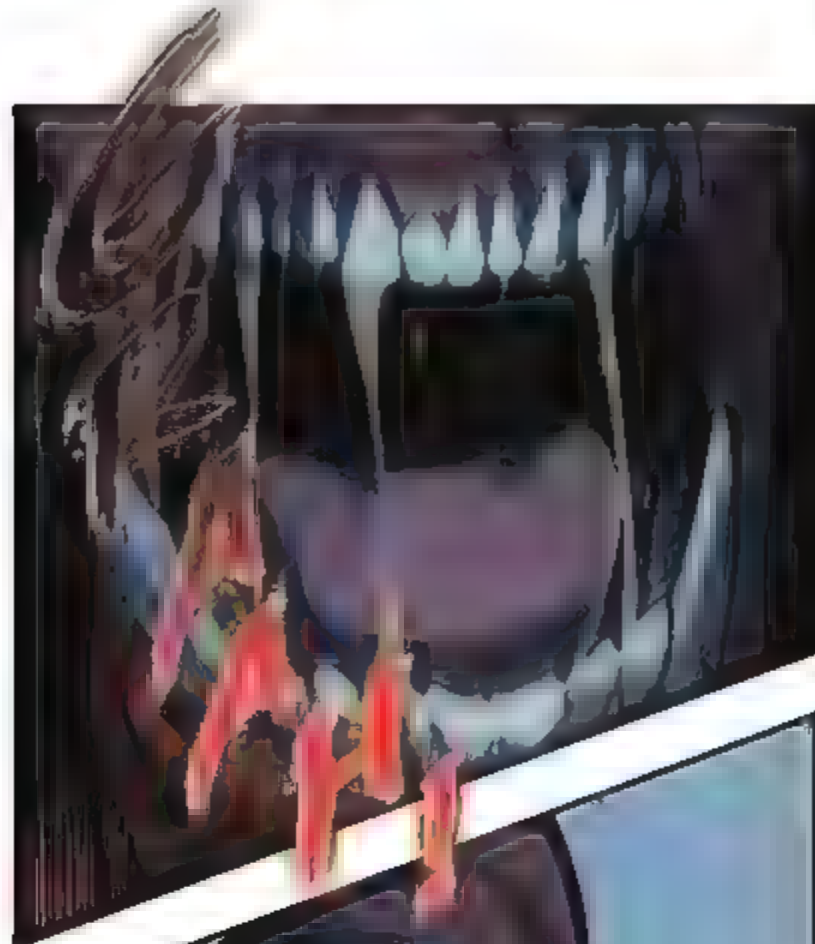


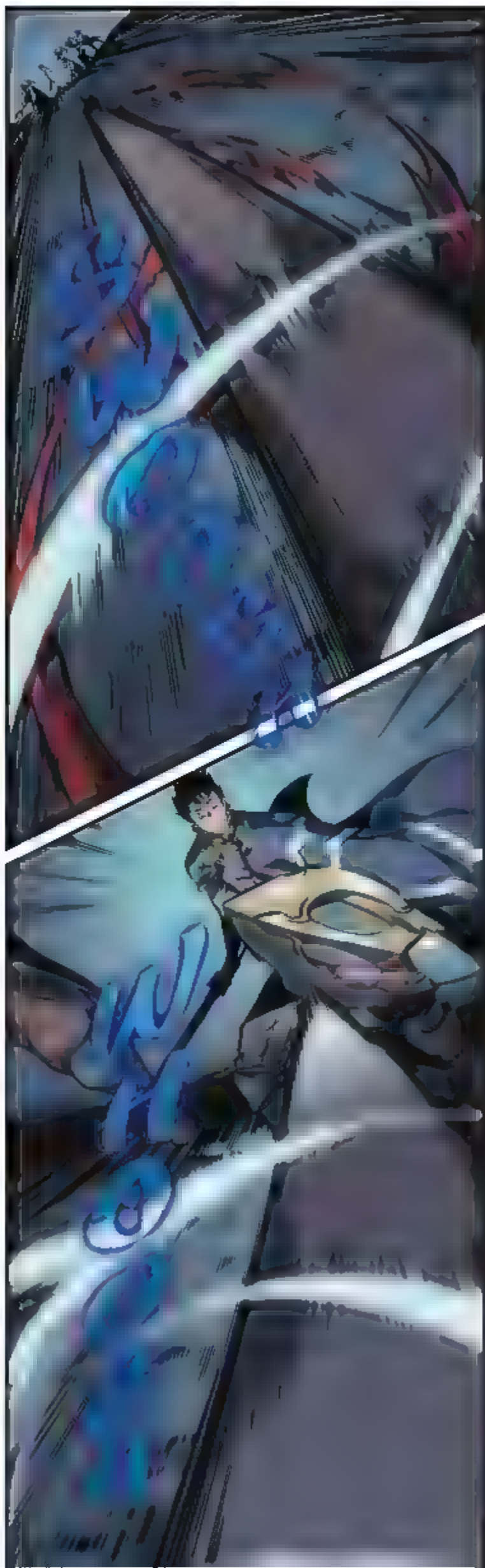
EVEN IF
THEY ATTACKED
A MAGIC BEAST
AS A PACK, THEY
COULDN'T TAKE
ONE DOWN.

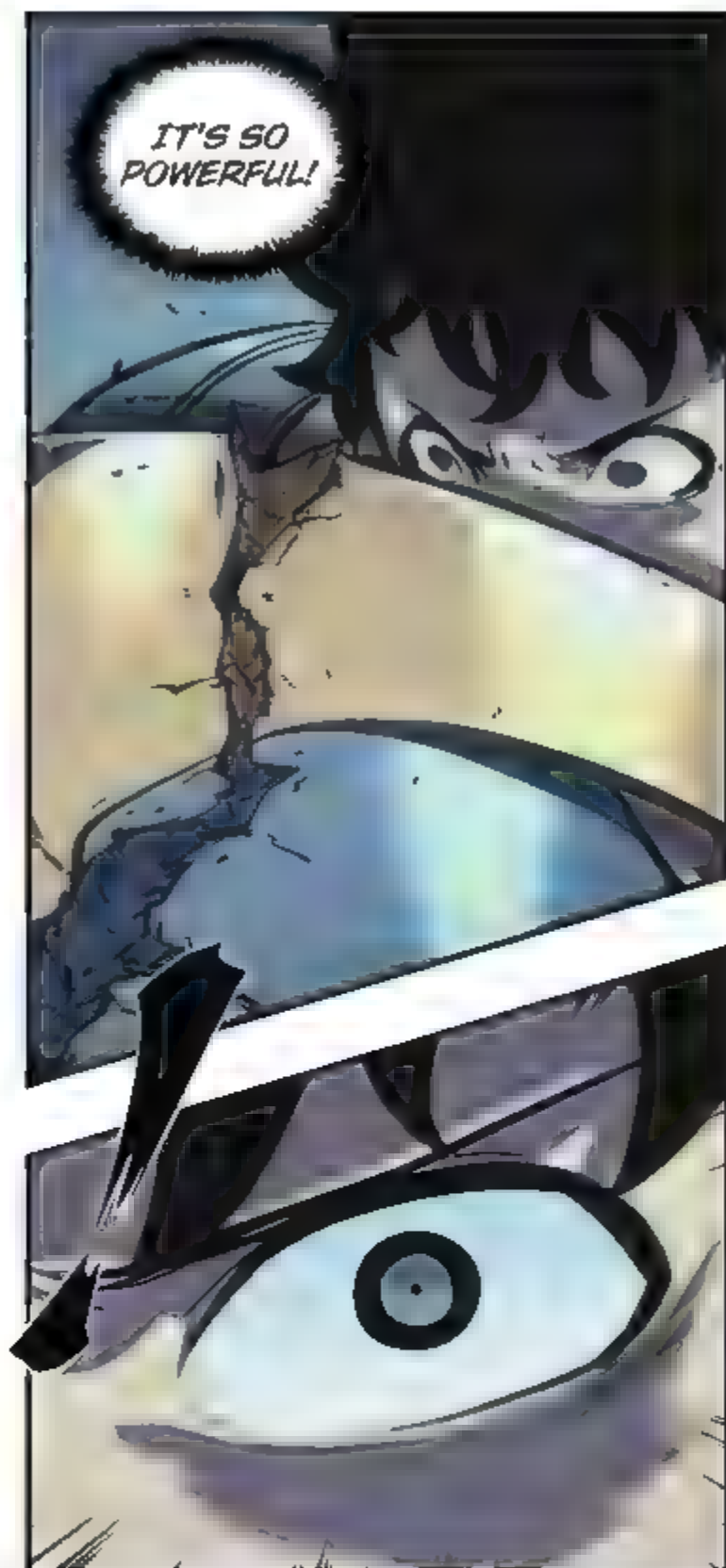
WITHOUT PREY,
HOW DID THEY
SURVIVE?

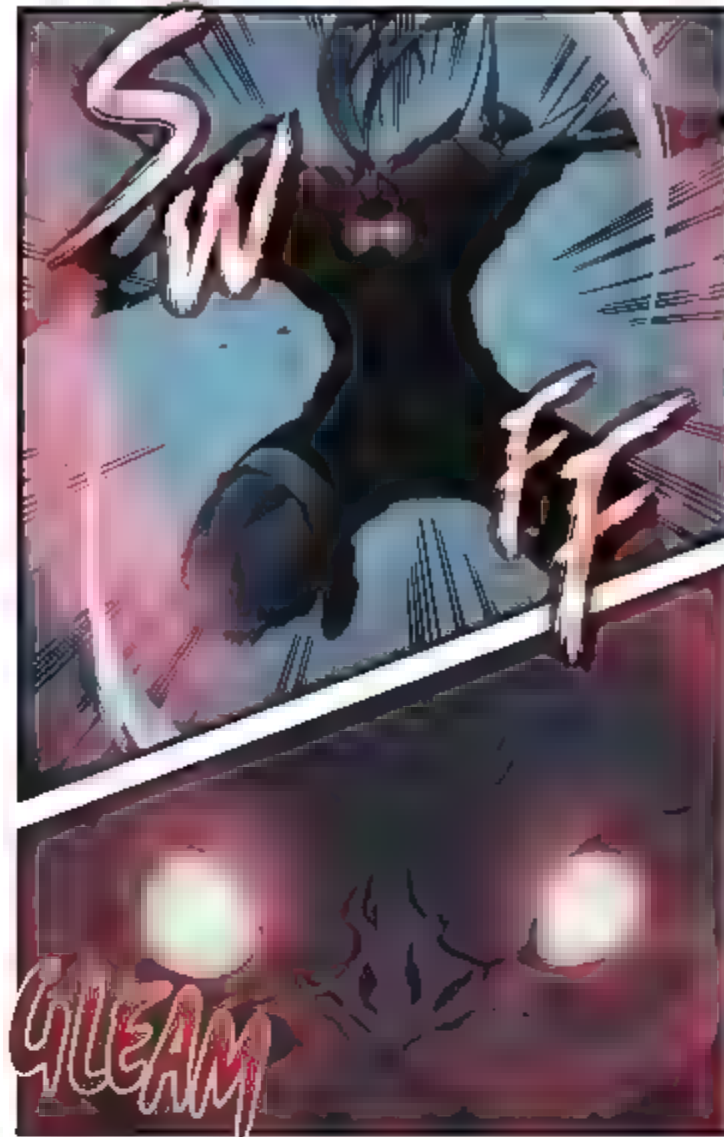


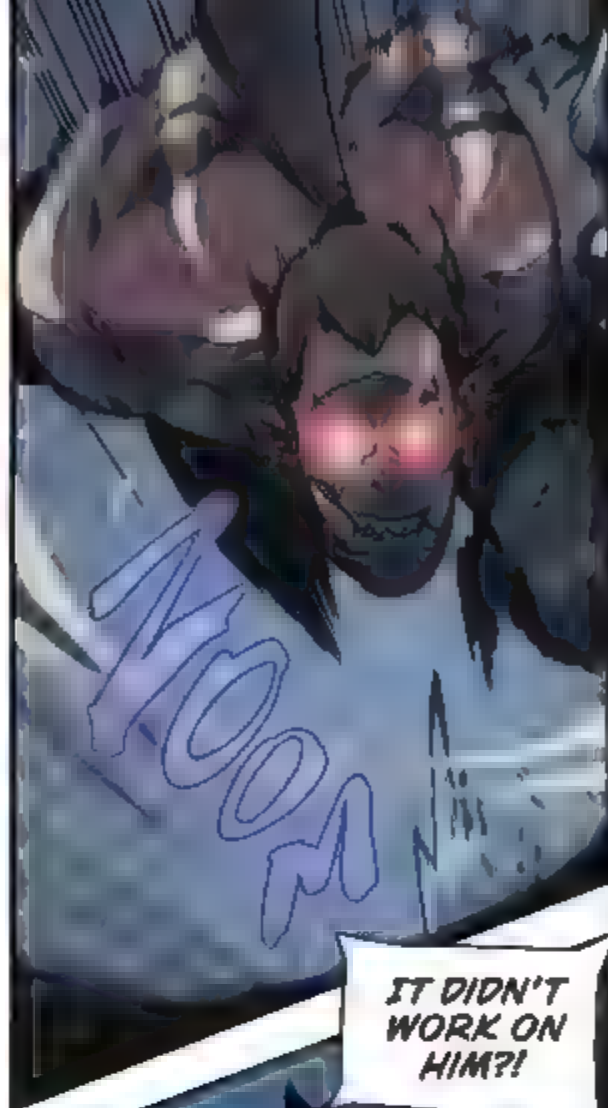












IT DIDN'T
WORK ON
HIM?!



HE'S
STRONG
AGAINST
MAGIC!



THE BASTARD IS
TOO POWERFUL!
I CAN ONLY HOLD
HIM FOR FIVE MORE
SECONDS!



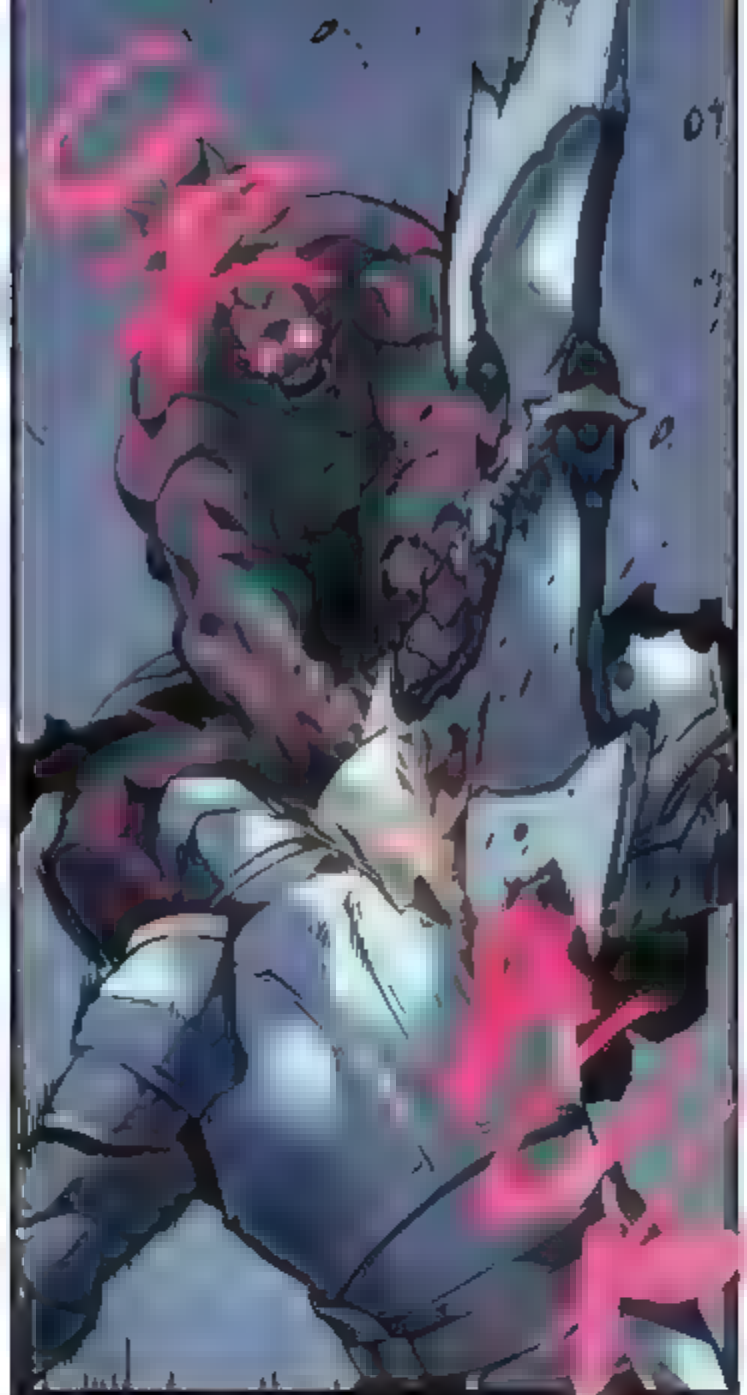


THING IS,
I CAN'T USE
OTHER MAGIC
WHEN I SUMMON
MINIONS.

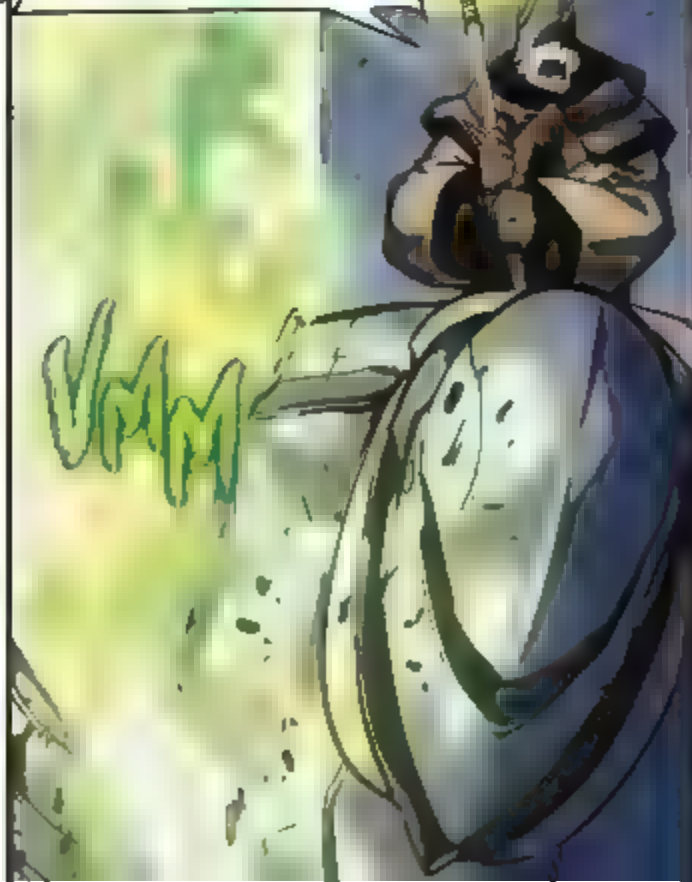
AND AS THEY
GET INJURED,
MY MANA GOES
DOWN. THAT'S WHY
I DIDN'T WANT TO
USE THEM.

MY
MANA'S
ALREADY
...!

DAMN IT...IF I
SUMMON ANOTHER
MINION, I'LL BE
OUT OF OPTIONS!



TANK, WHAT'RE
YOU DOING?!
HURRY AND COVER
THE REAR!

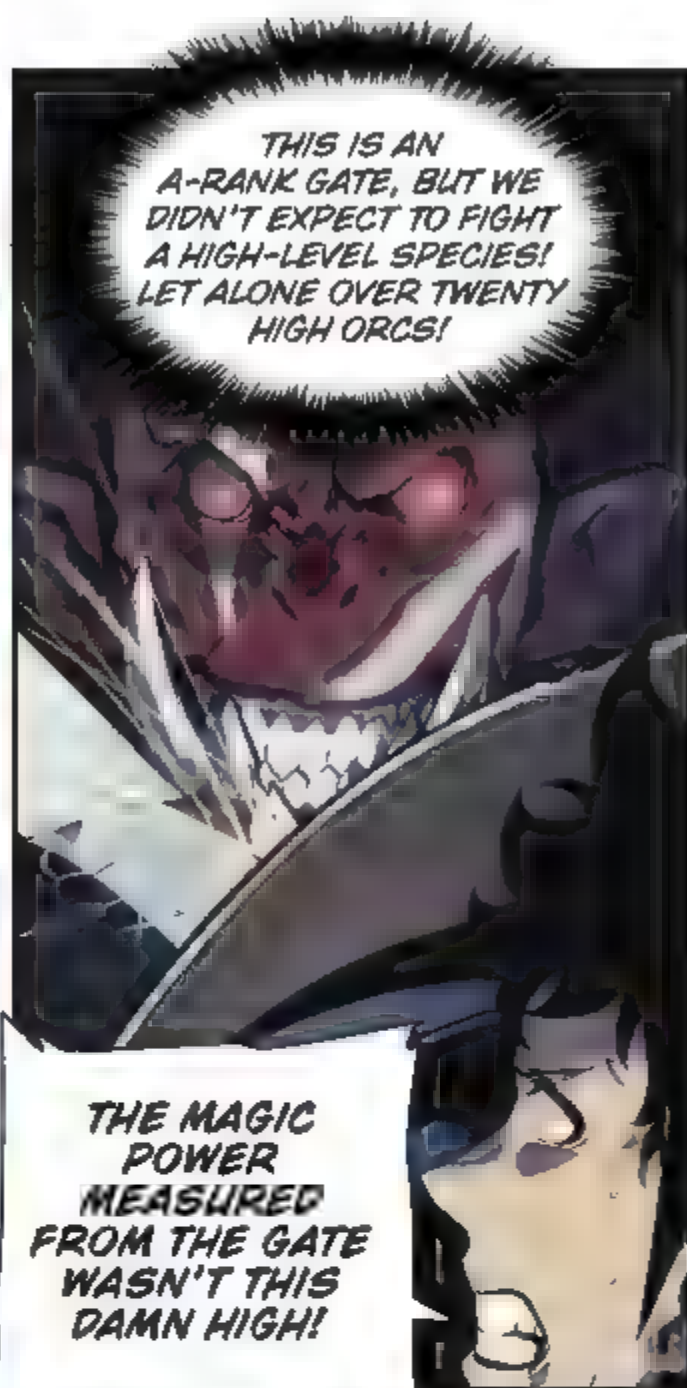


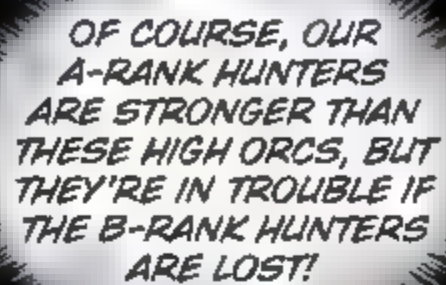
AGGRO DOESN'T
WORK ON THEM!
ALL THE SKILLS
ARE REPELLED!

HEAL!
HEAL!!

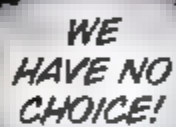
H-HURRY!







OF COURSE, OUR
A-RANK HUNTERS
ARE STRONGER THAN
THESE HIGH ORCS, BUT
THEY'RE IN TROUBLE IF
THE B-RANK HUNTERS
ARE LOST!



WE
HAVE NO
CHOICE!



SACRIFICES
ARE
INEVITABLE!



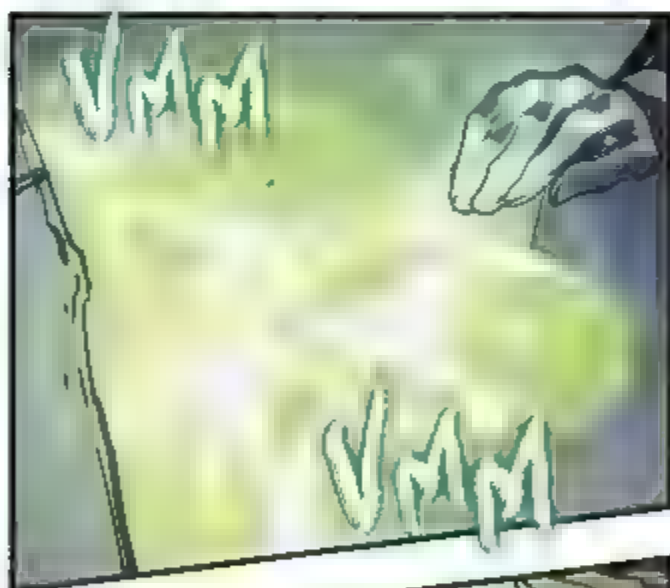
GODSPEED,
EVERYONE!

SHHH

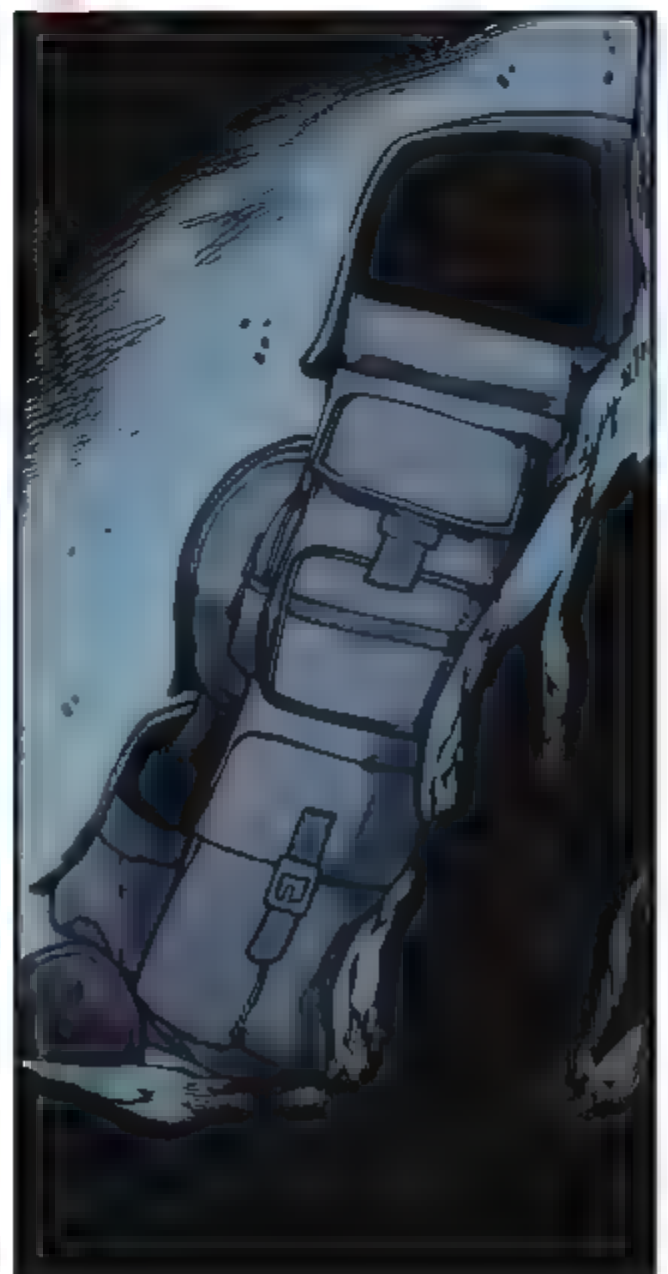
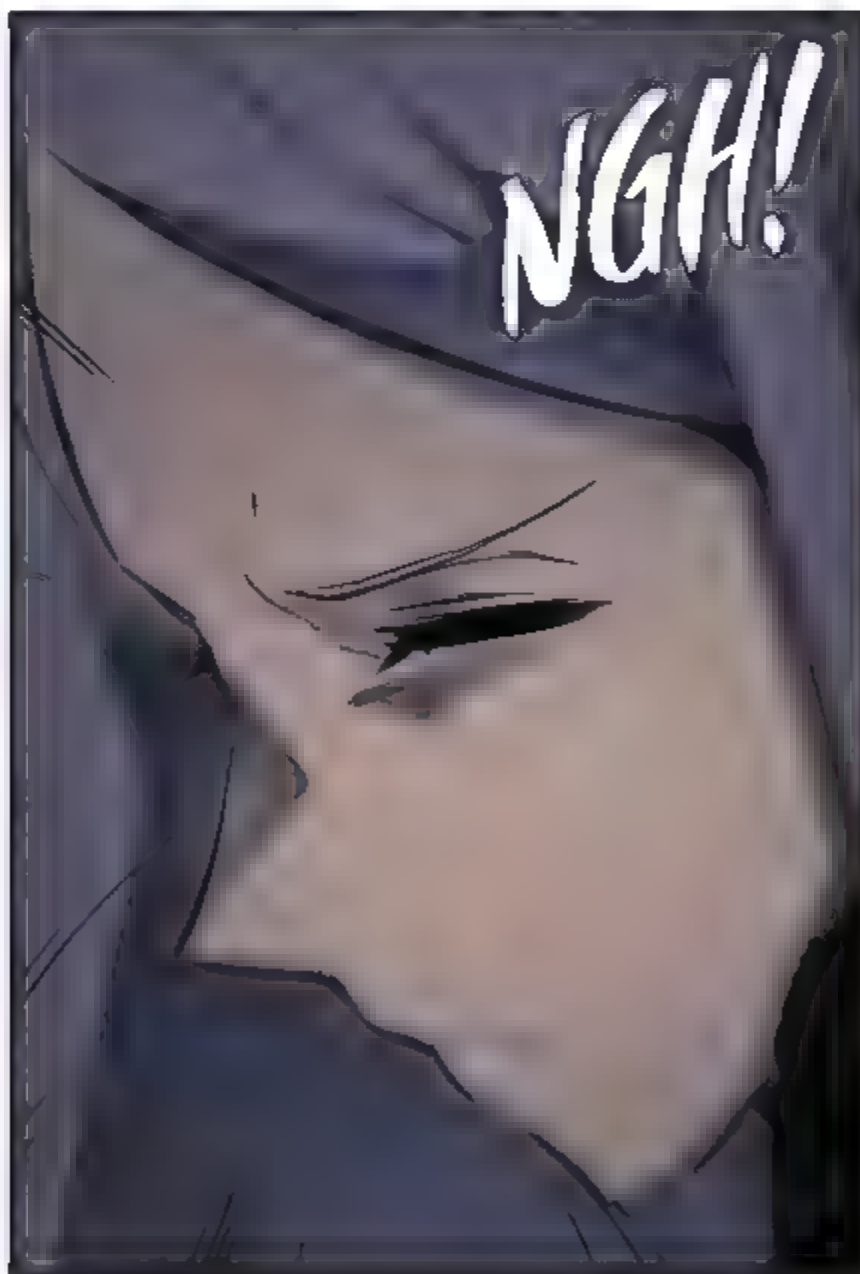


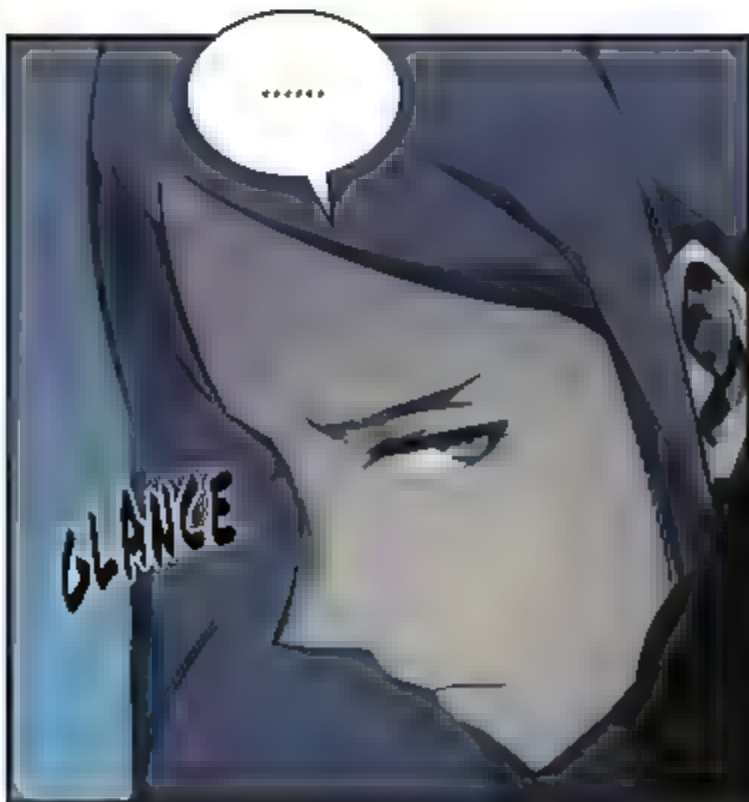
HEAD TO
THE BACK!

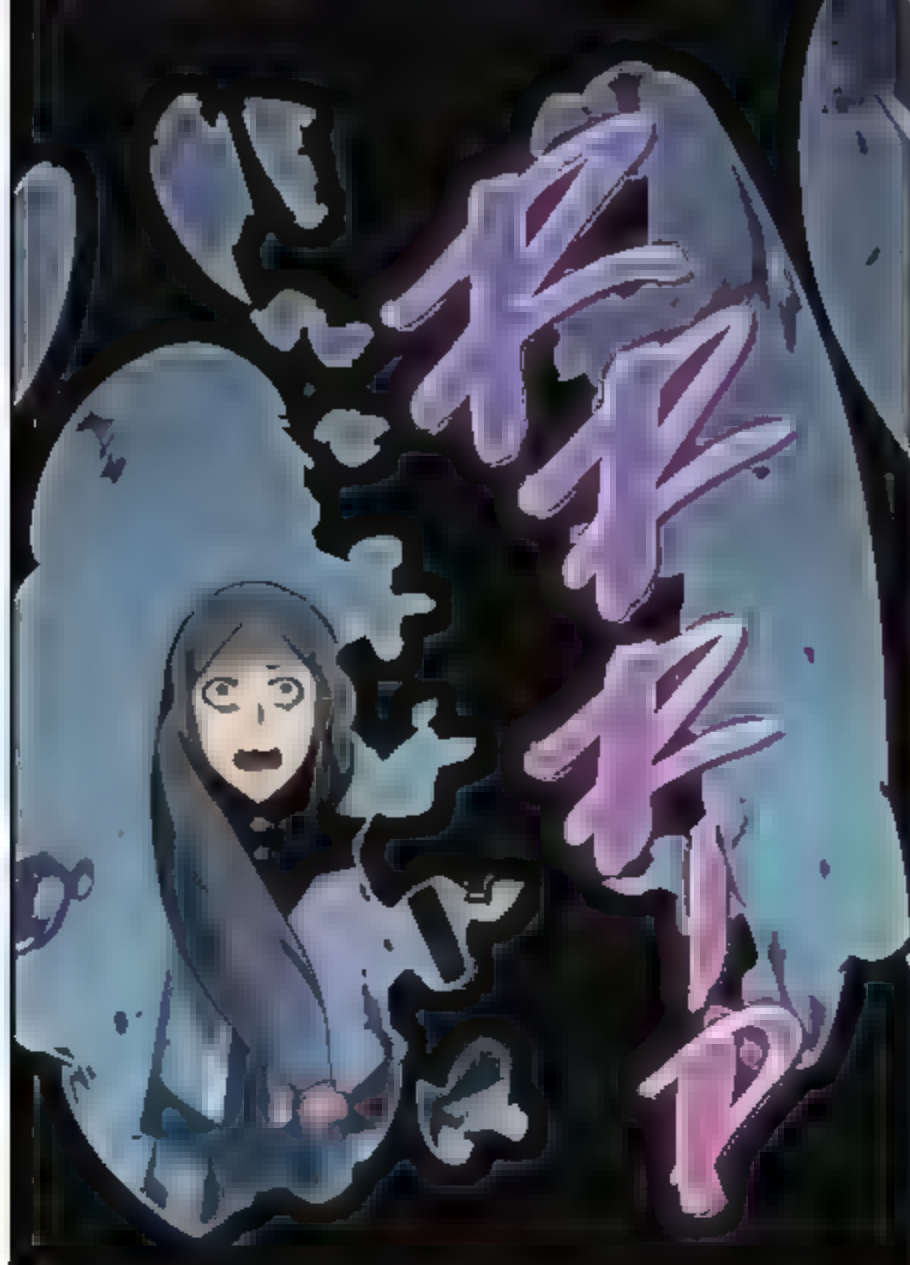
SLAM



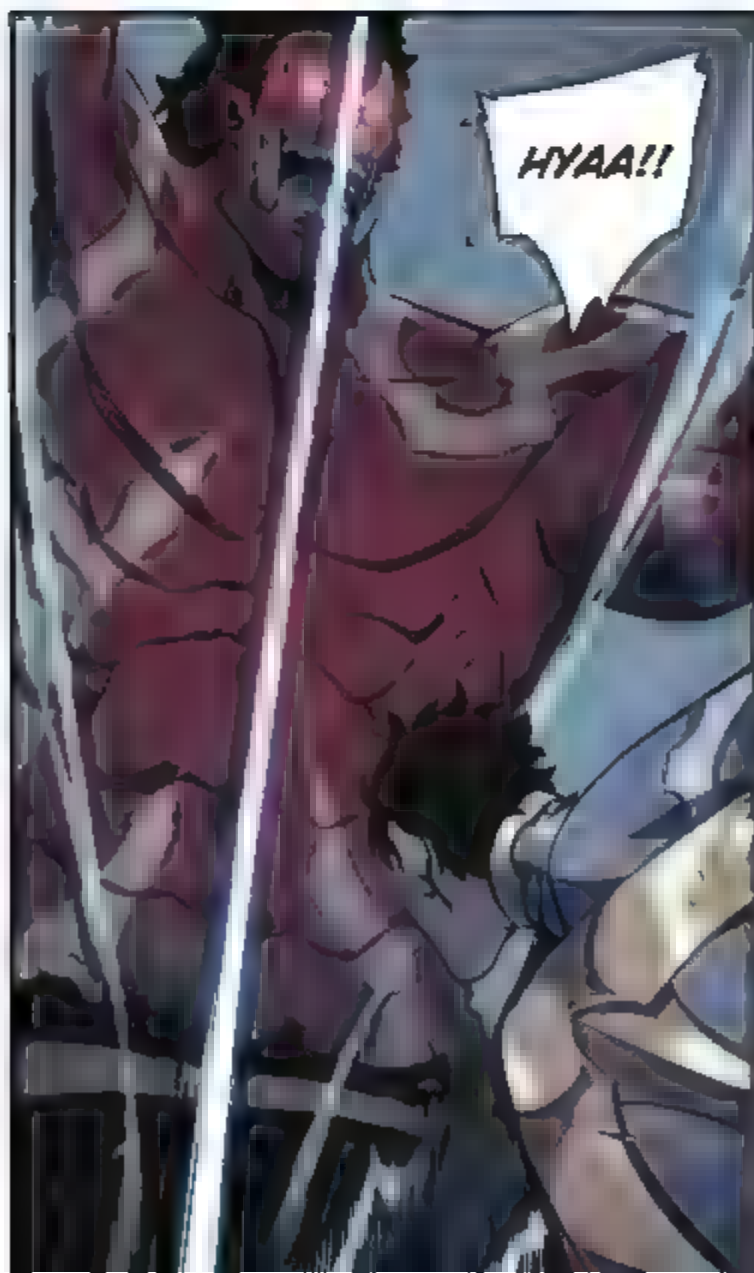








WH-WHAT
JUST
HAPPENED?



HYAA!!



HEFF!

HEFF!

...WHAT'S
GOING ON?

SOMEHOW...

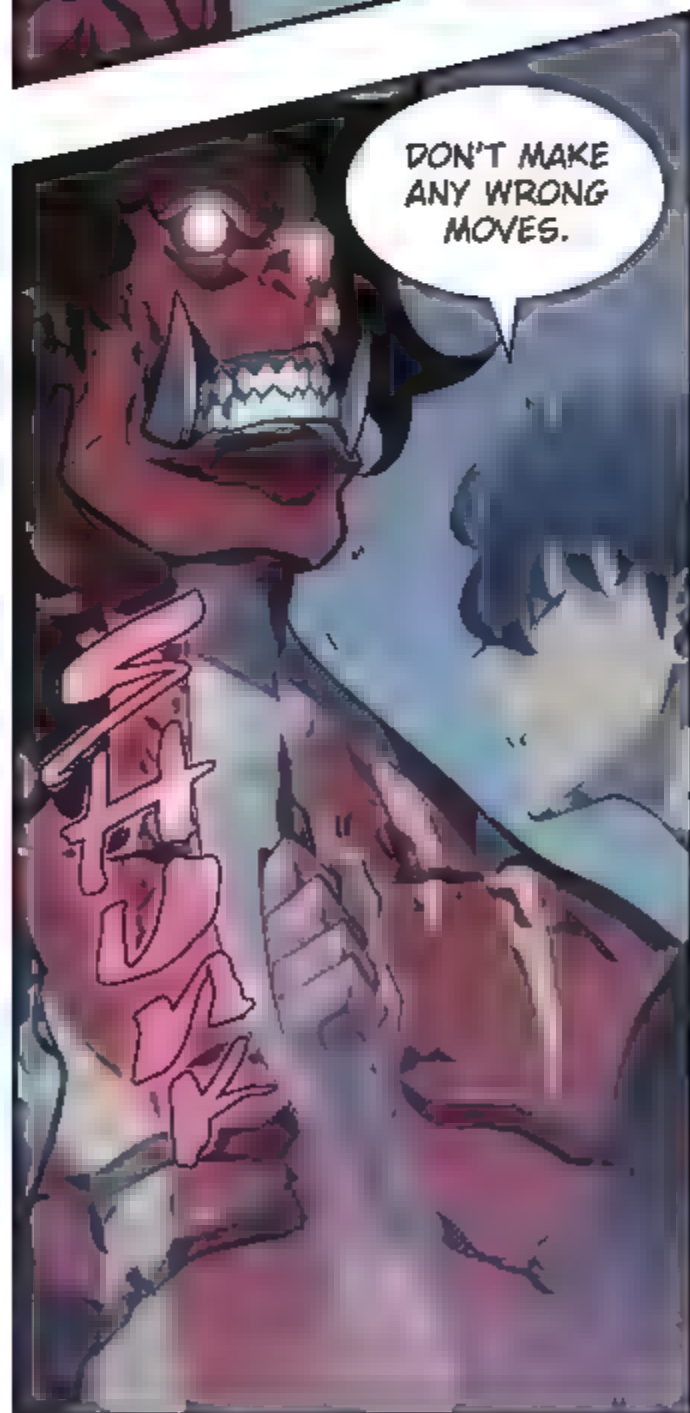




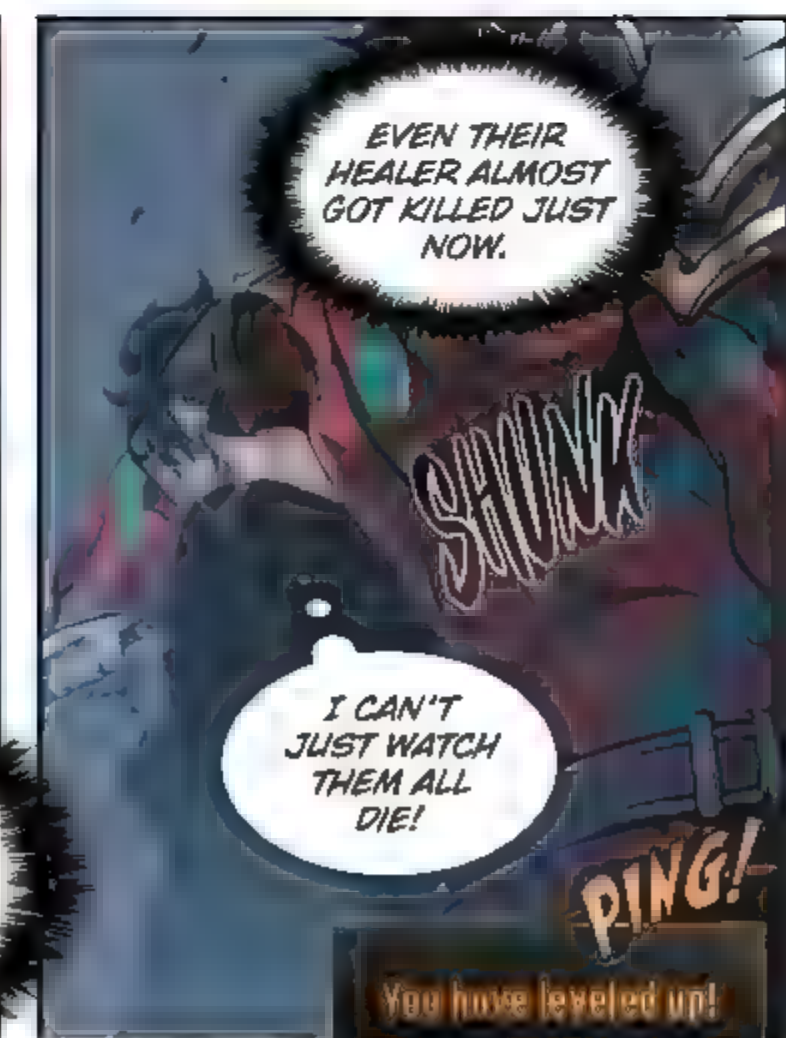
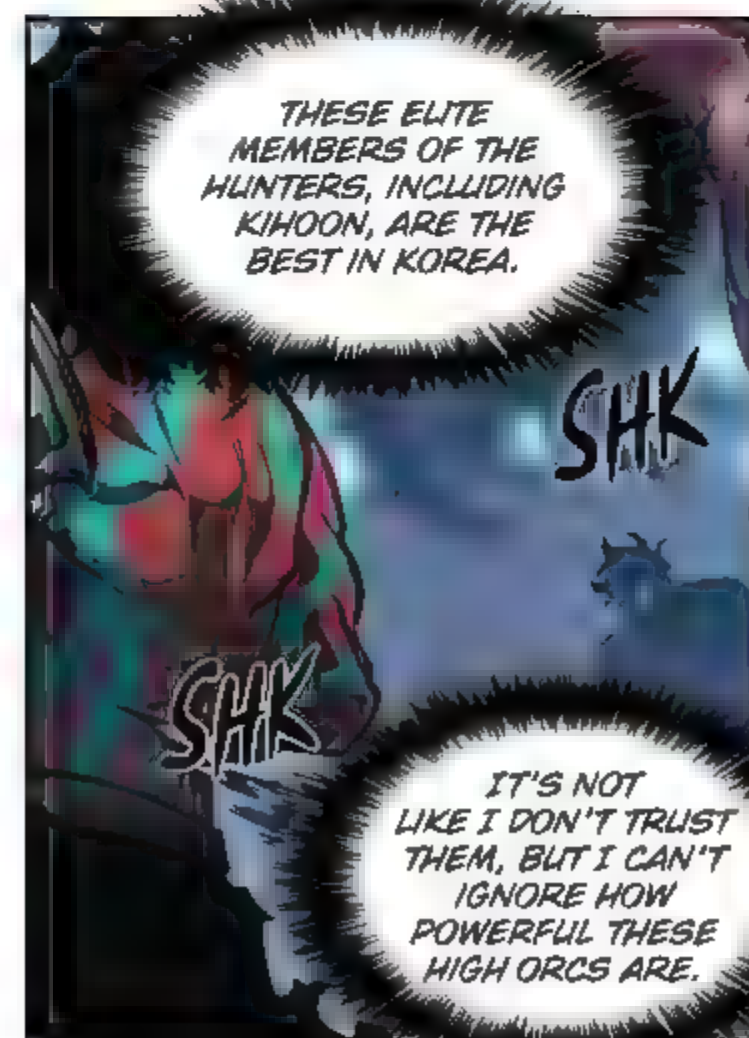
I'M TAKING
DOWN AS MANY AS
POSSIBLE WITHOUT
BEING NOTICED.

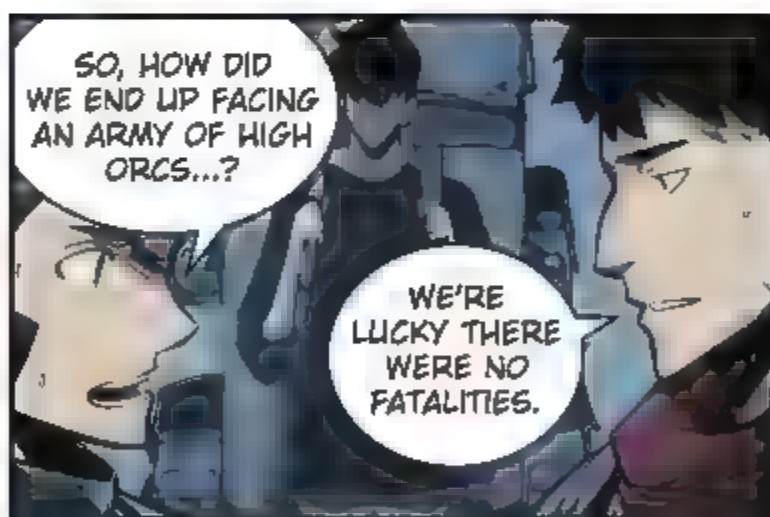


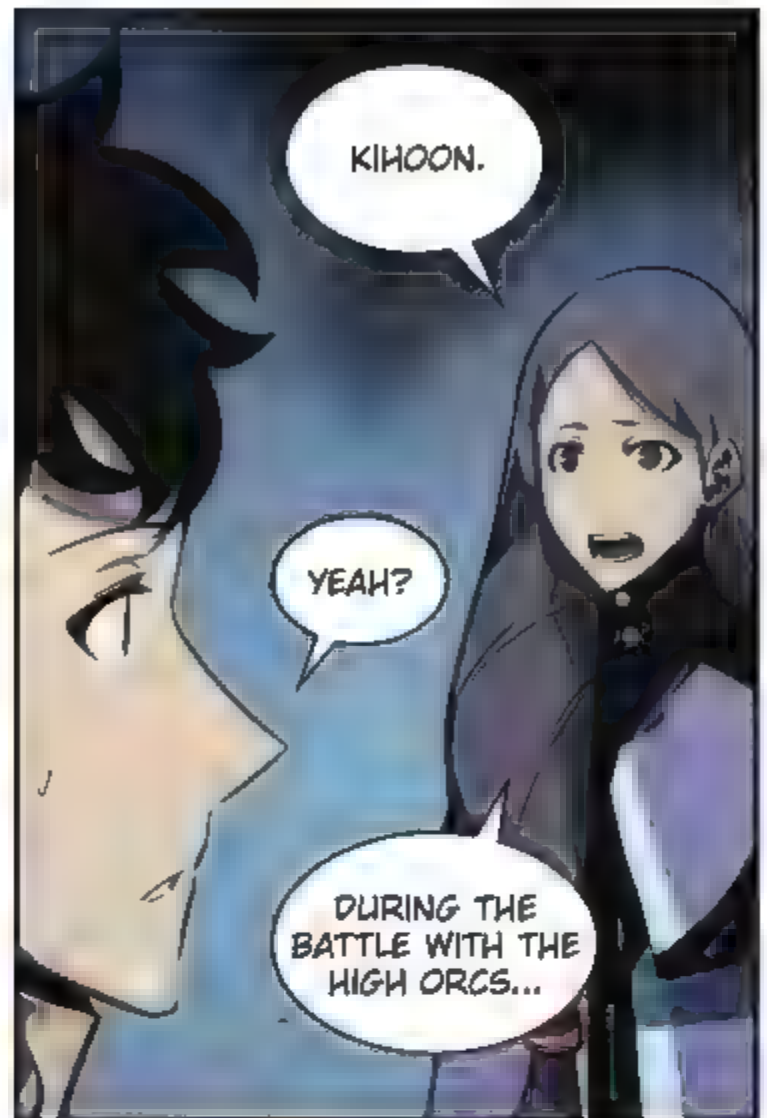
BUT LOOKS
LIKE A FEW OF
THESE BASTARDS
HAVE CAUGHT
ON.

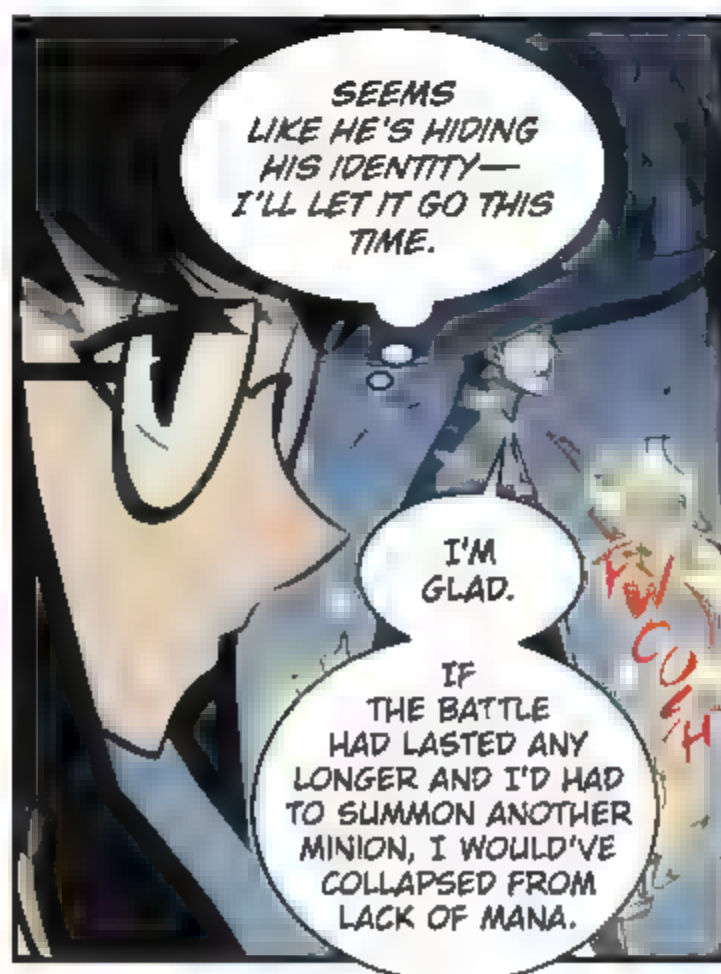
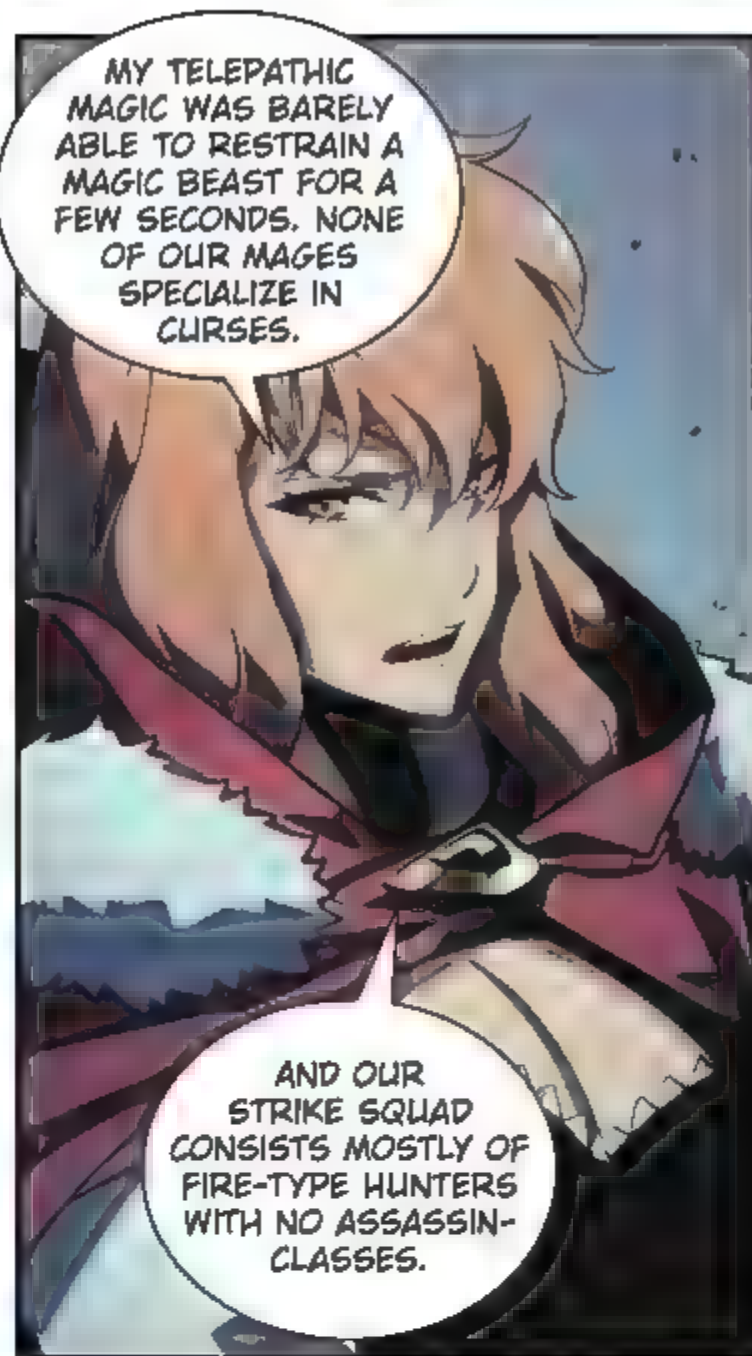
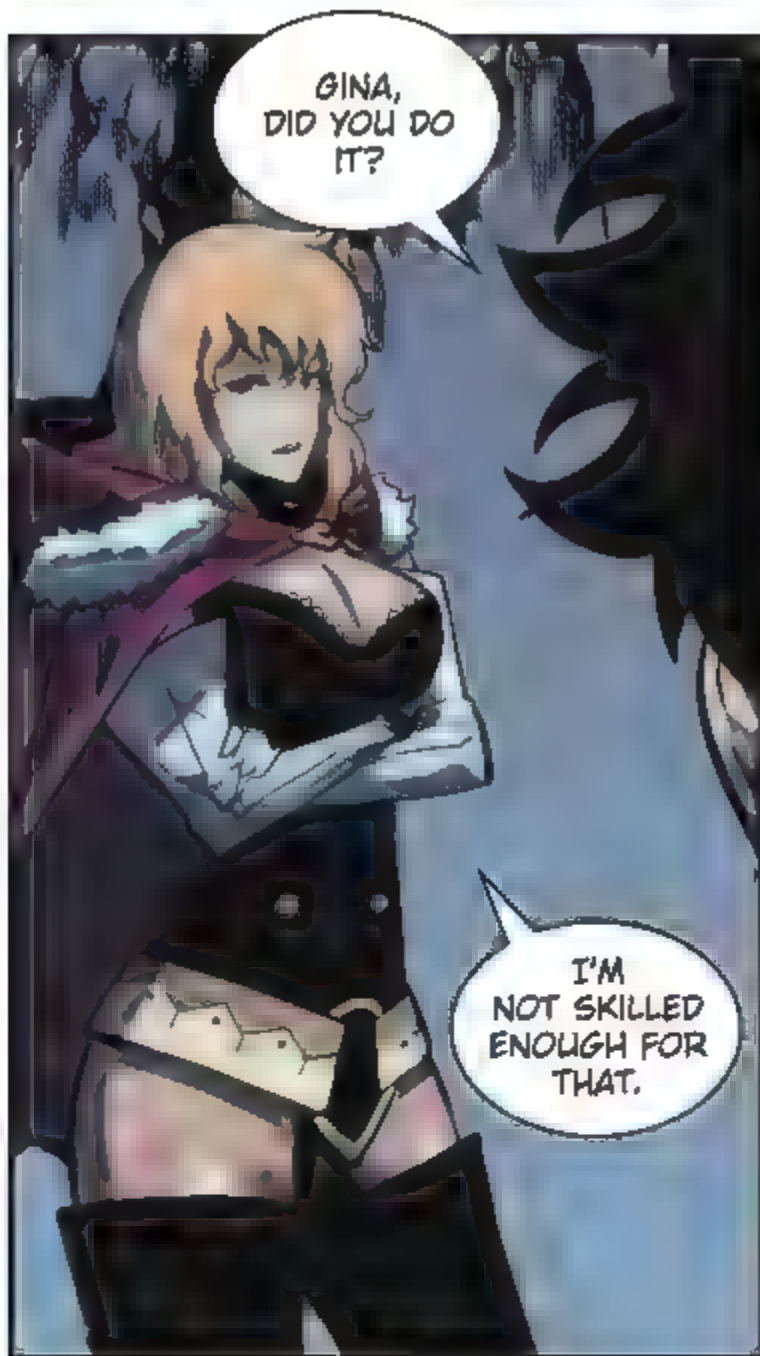


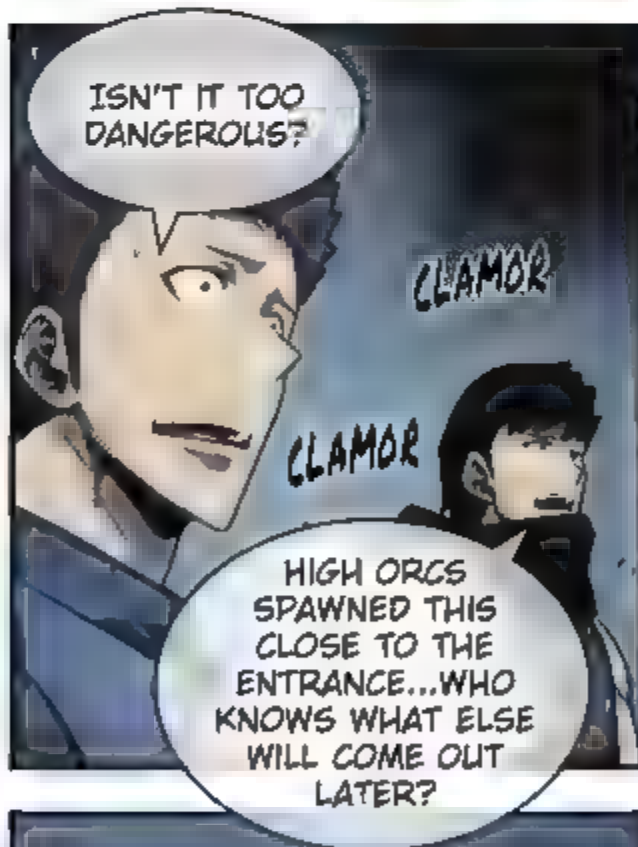
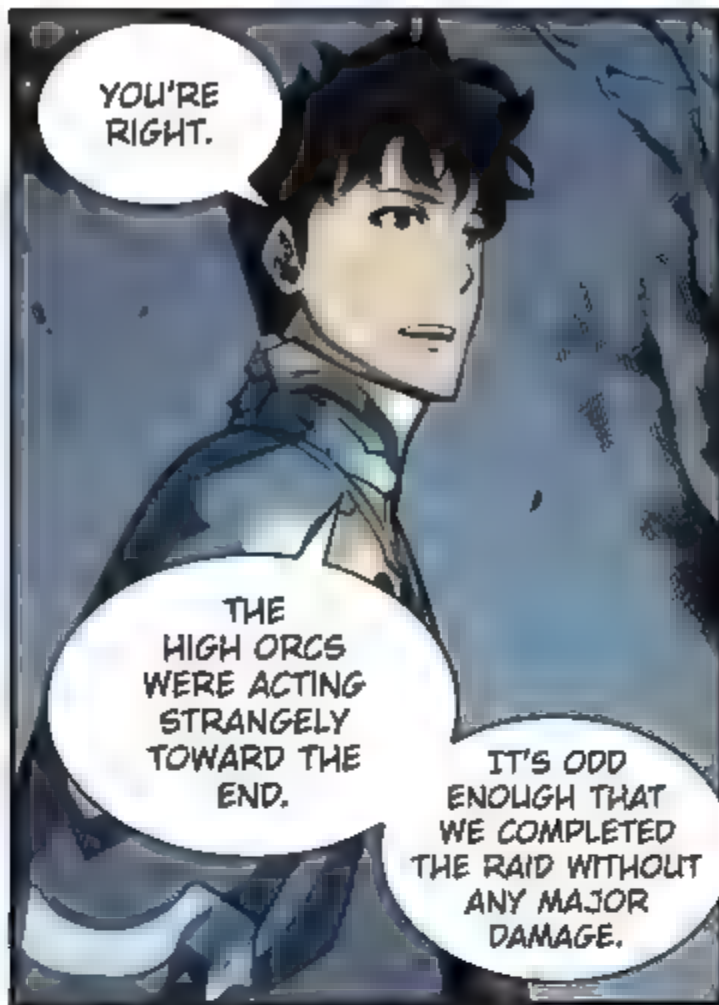
DON'T MAKE
ANY WRONG
MOVES.













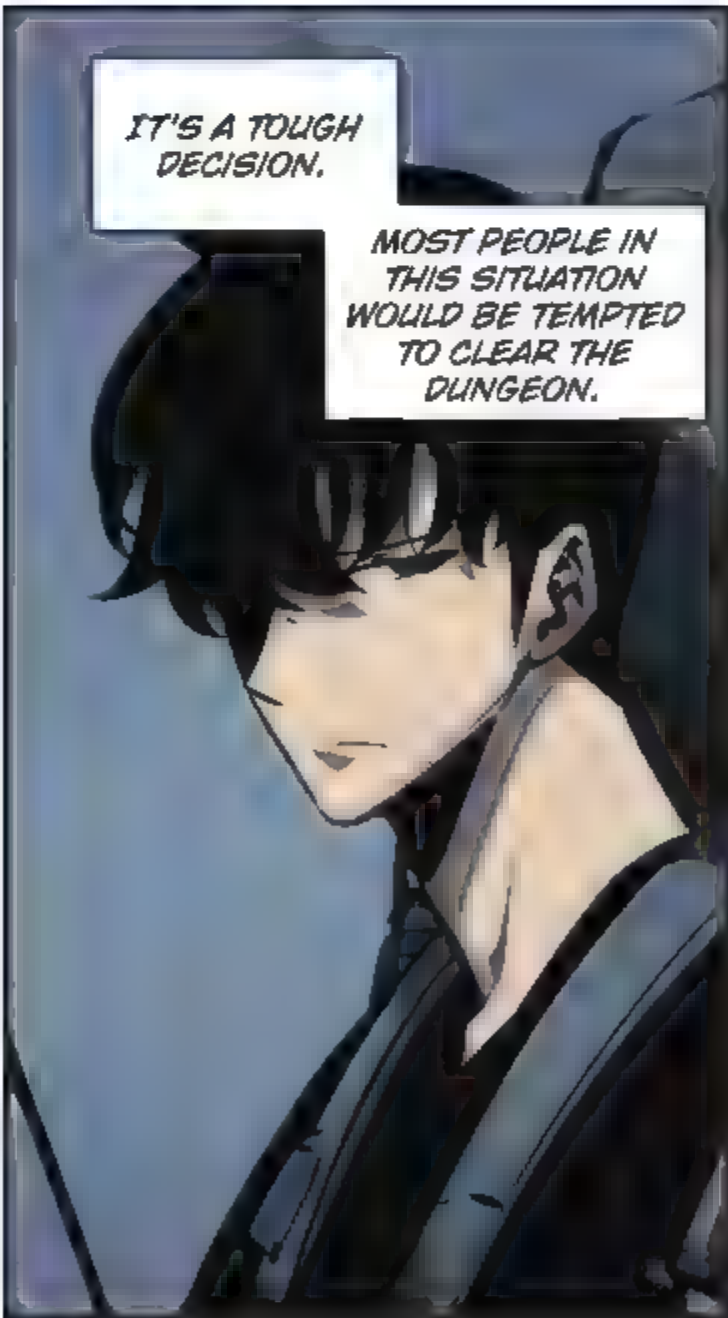
I KNOW IT'D BE
DISAPPOINTING FOR THE
STRIKE SQUAD TO HAVE
TO RETREAT ON YOUR
FIRST MISSION AS
CAPTAIN...

IF THIS RAID
IS SUCCESSFUL,
I'LL OFFICIALLY BE
THE LEADER OF
THE SQUAD.



I CAN'T
CHANCE IT...

CLENCH



IT'S A TOUGH
DECISION.

MOST PEOPLE IN
THIS SITUATION
WOULD BE TEMPTED
TO CLEAR THE
DUNGEON.



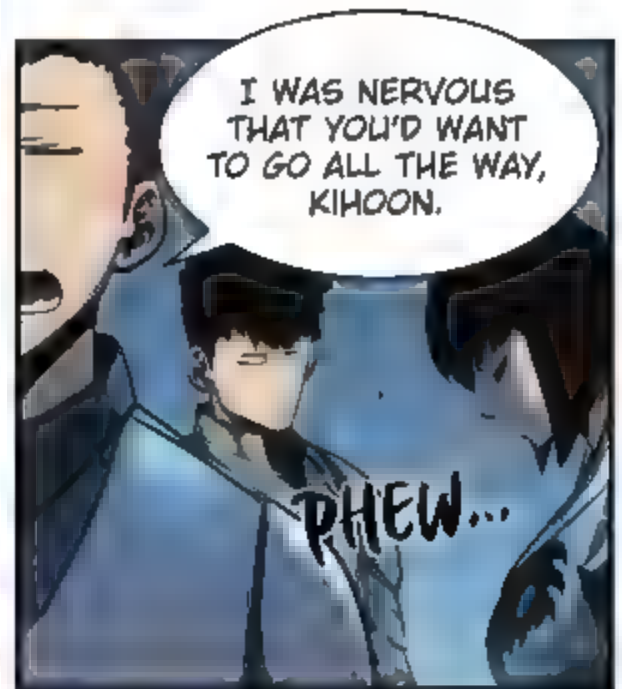
BUT IF HE'S A
WISE LEADER...



THEN...



...WE SHOULD
RETREAT FOR
NOW.



I WAS NERVOUS
THAT YOU'D WANT
TO GO ALL THE WAY,
KIHON.

RHEW...



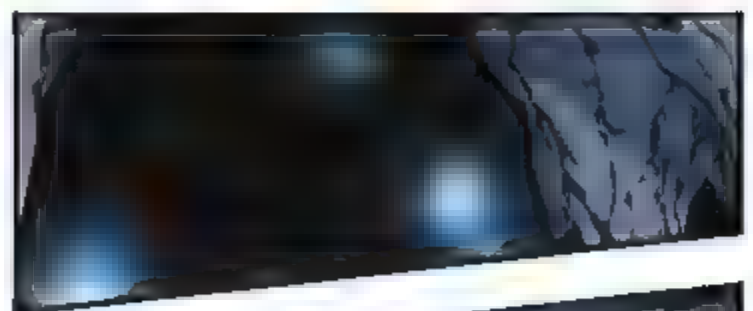
I'M NOT
CRAZY.

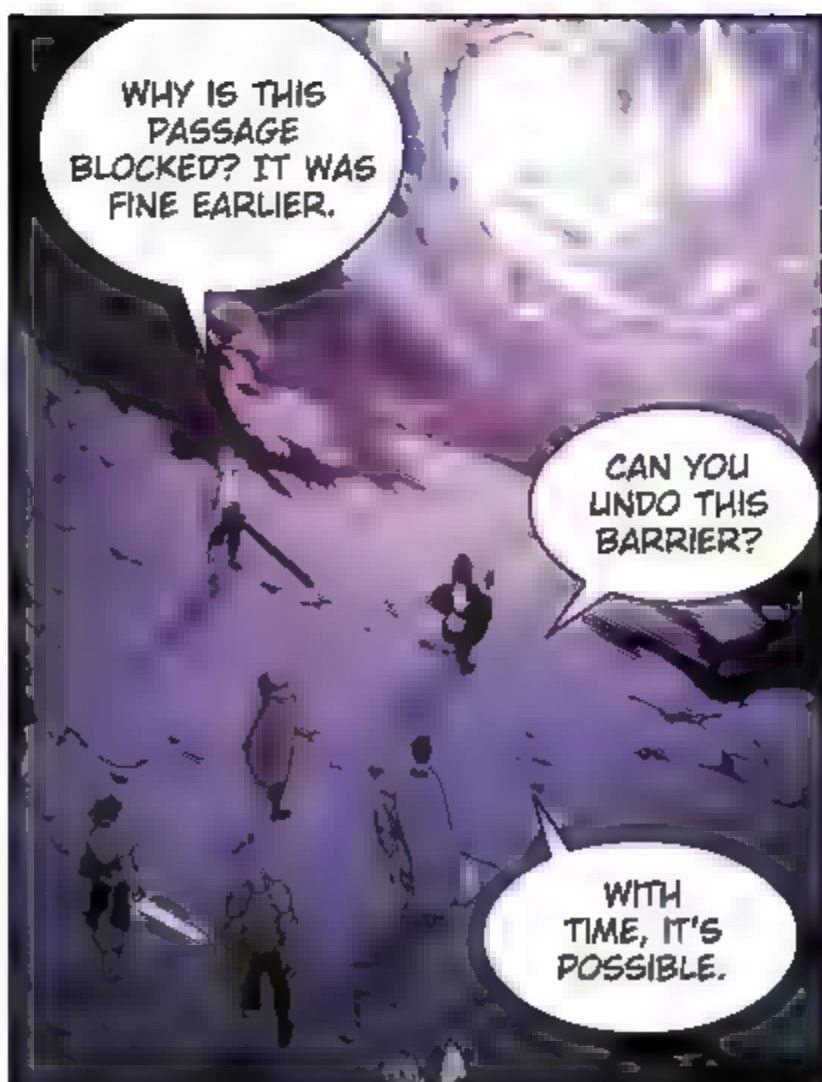


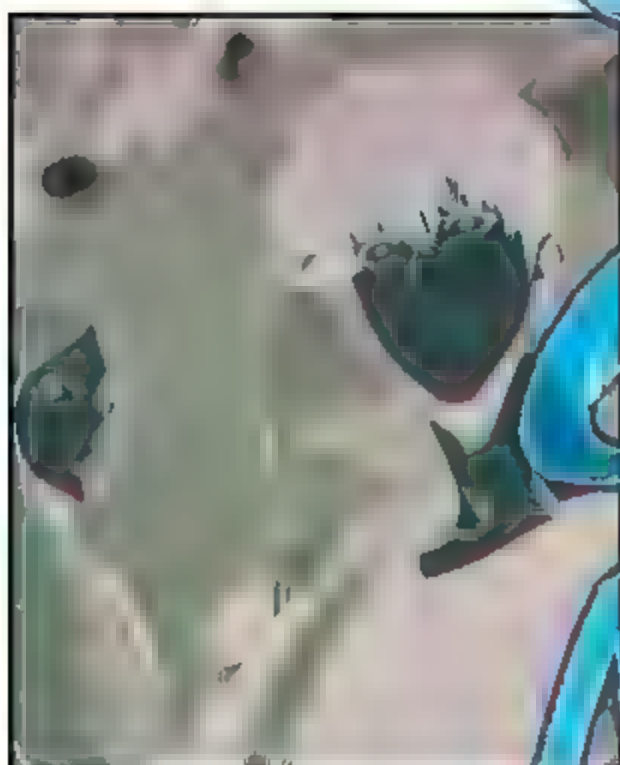
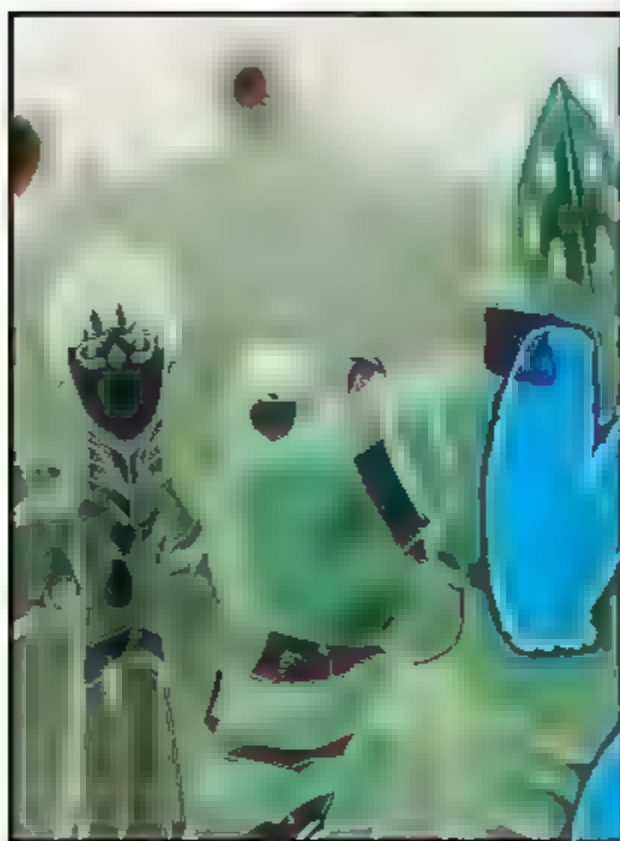
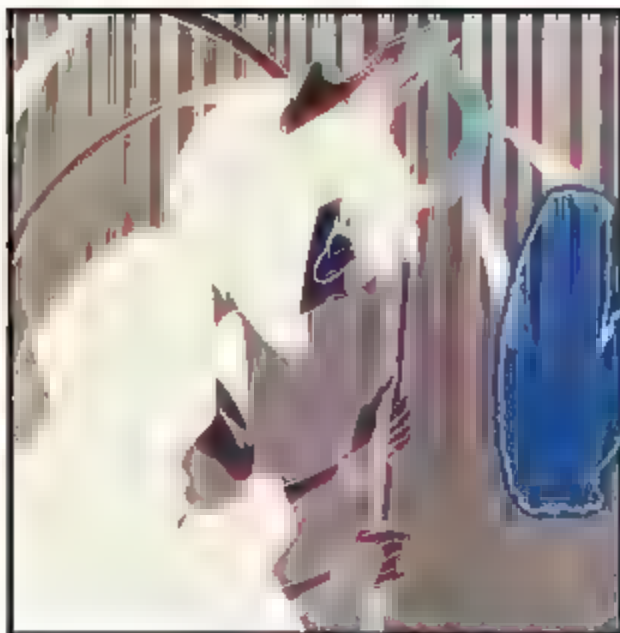
I KNOW.

BUT
LOOK AT MY
HANDS! THEY'RE
TREMBLING.

STOP BEING SO
DRAMATIC. LET'S
GO, PEOPLE!









**GINA, WE
NEED TO HURRY
AND UNDO THIS
MAGIC!**

**I'M
ON IT!**



**DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
IT'LL BE EASY
TO UNDO!**

BOOM



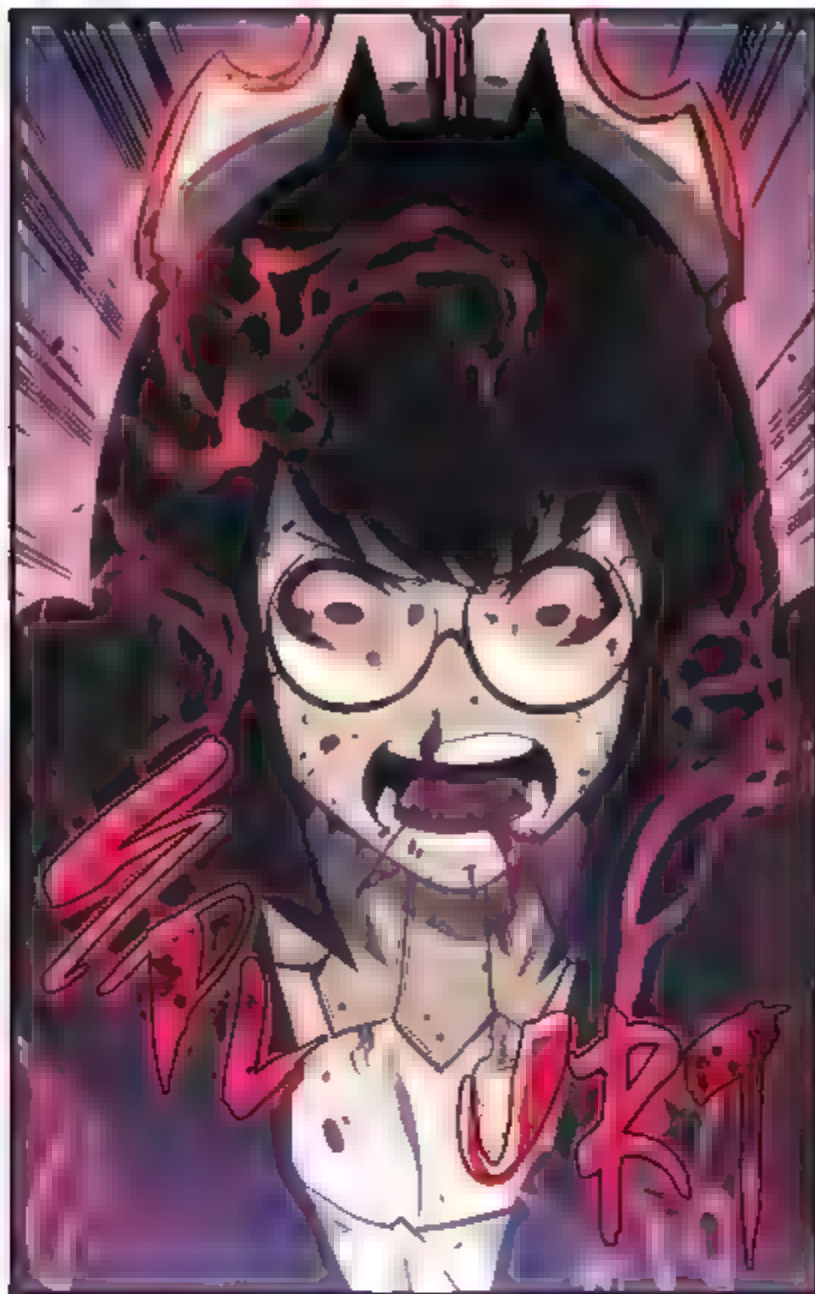
**AN INCREDIBLY
STRONG WAVE OF MAGIC
POWER! EVEN LOW-
RANK HUNTERS CAN
SENSE IT!**

**IT'S NEXT
LEVEL!**

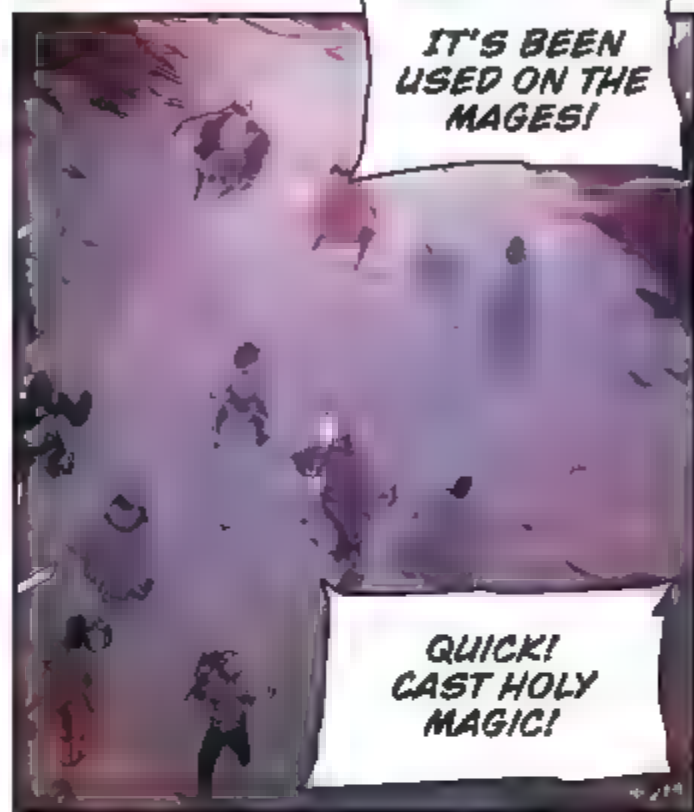


**HOW COME I
DIDN'T FEEL THIS
FROM THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
GATE?**

**IS IT A BOSS
WHO CAN HIDE ITS
PRESENCE...?**



A CURSE
SPELL?!



IT'S BEEN
USED ON THE
MAGES!

QUICK!
CAST HOLY
MAGIC!



STOMP

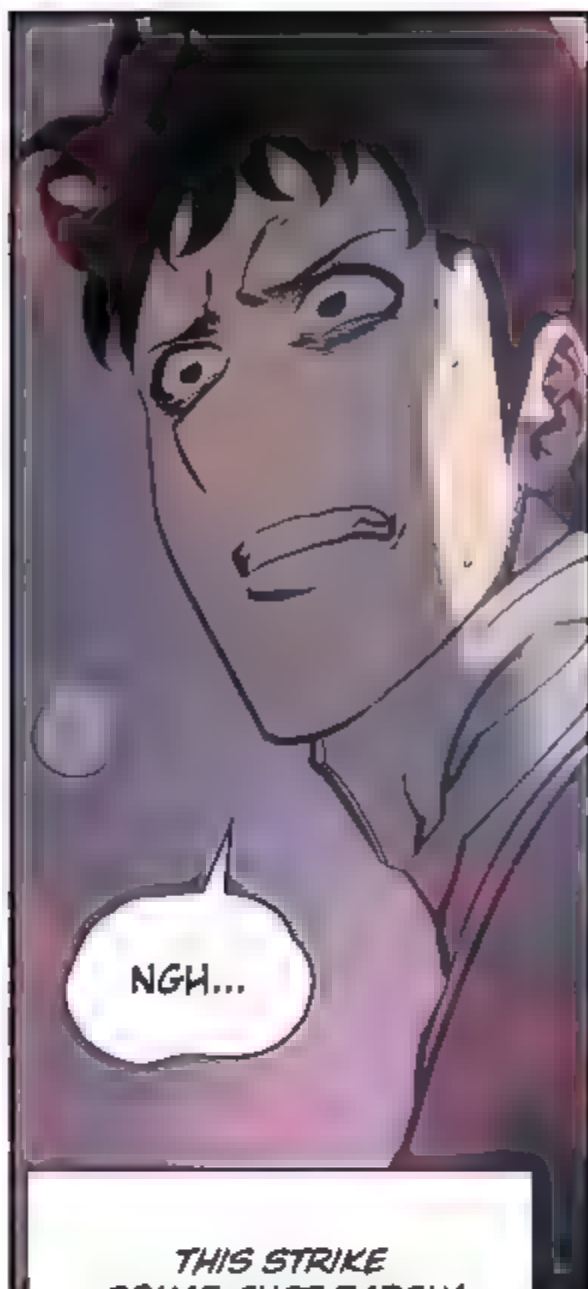
KIHOON...

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP



NGH...

THIS STRIKE
SQUAD JUST BARELY
DEFEATED TWENTY
HIGH ORC WARRIORS.

AND NOW...

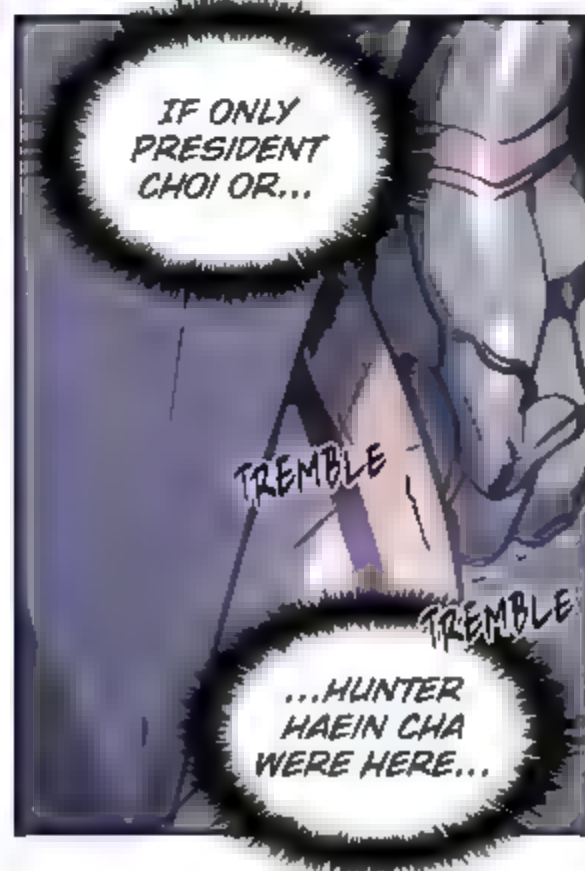
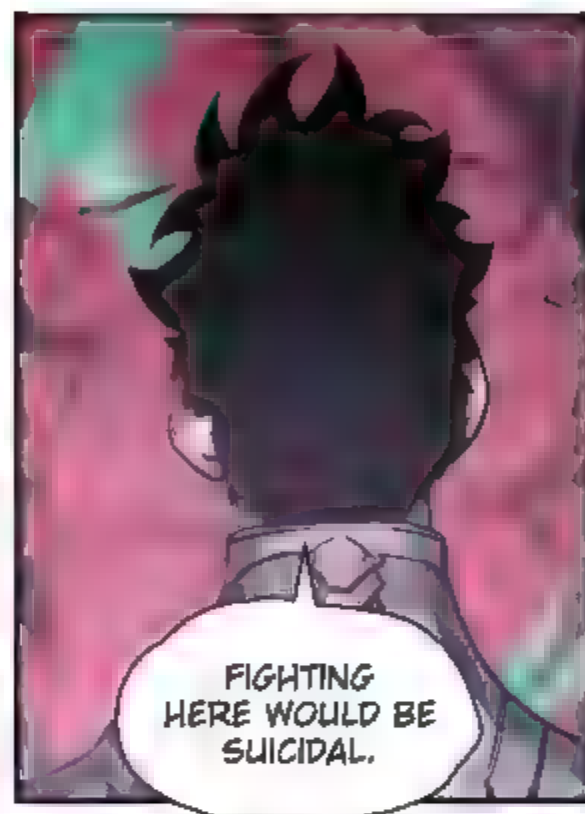


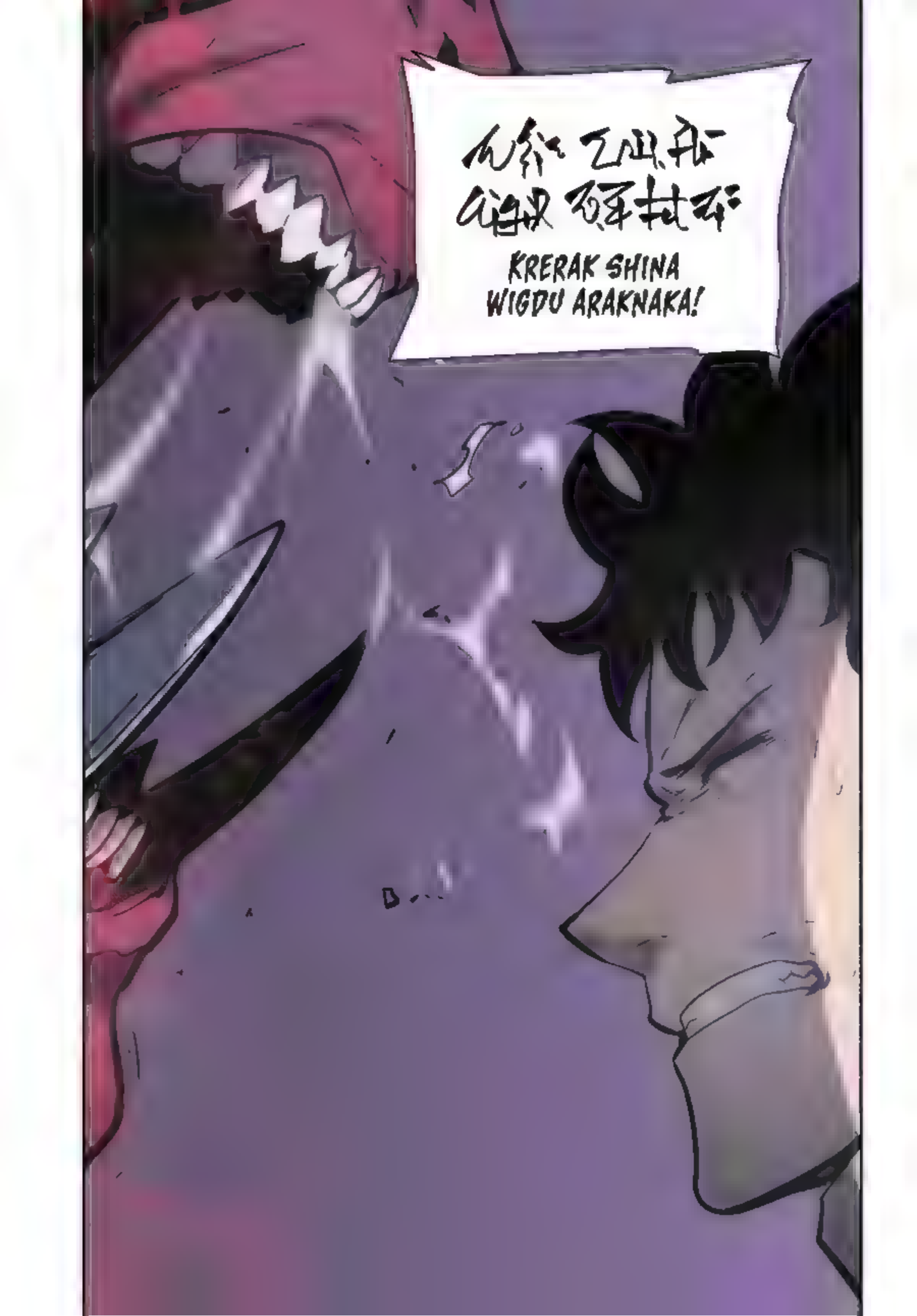
THERE
ARE...



...AT LEAST
FIFTY!





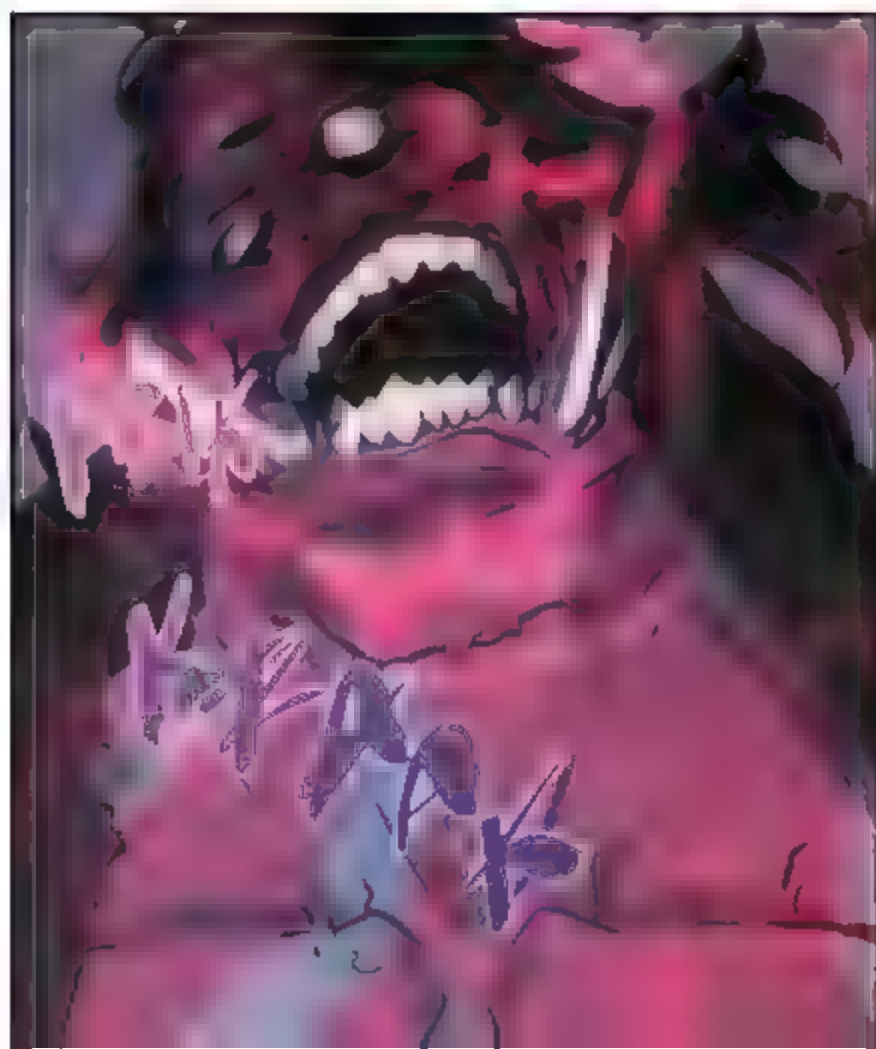


んが 乙女が
うぐ 石を砕く

KRERAK SHINA
WIGDU ARAKNAKA!

ルル 乙山 非
ウグド アラクナカ

KRERAK SHINA
WIGDU ARAKNAKA!

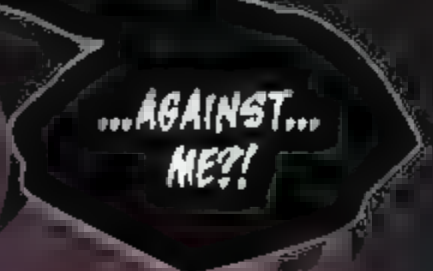
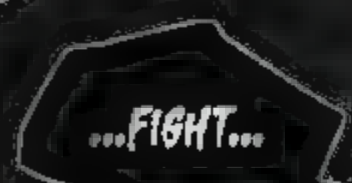
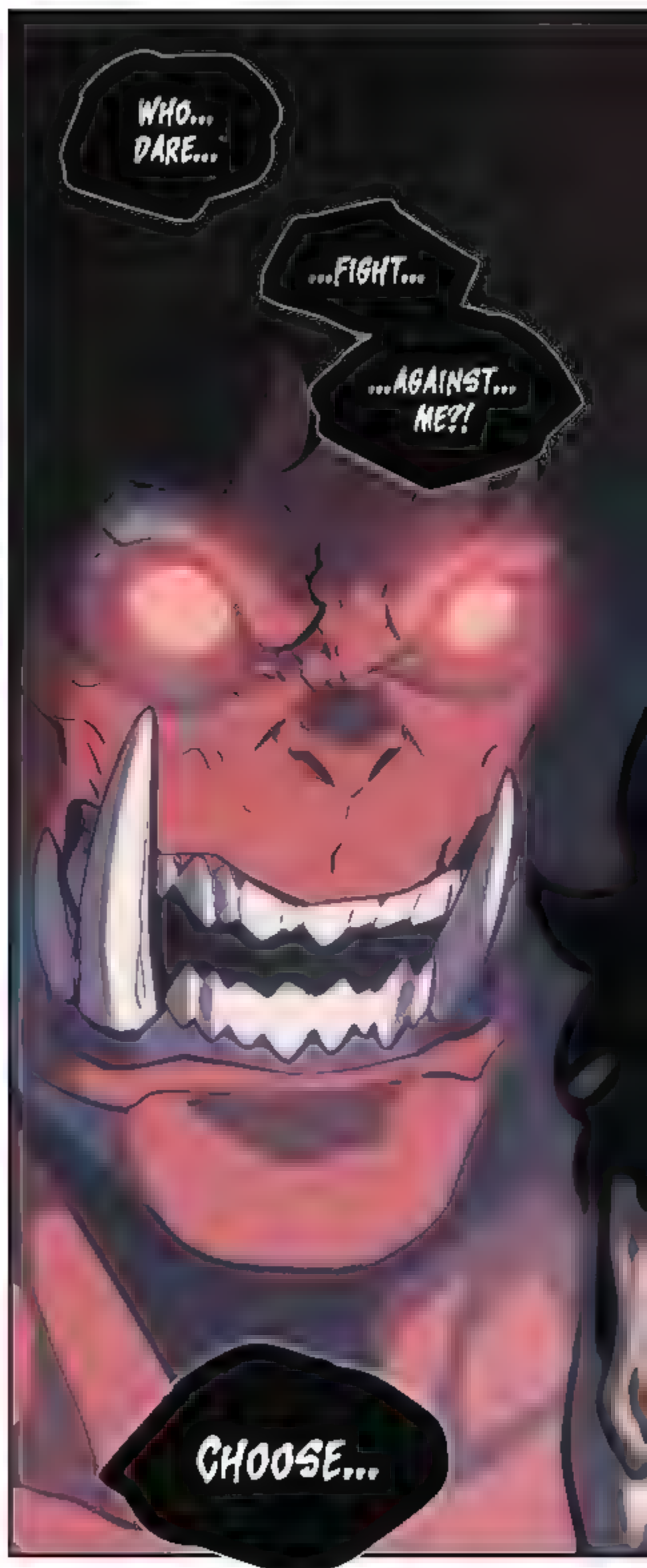
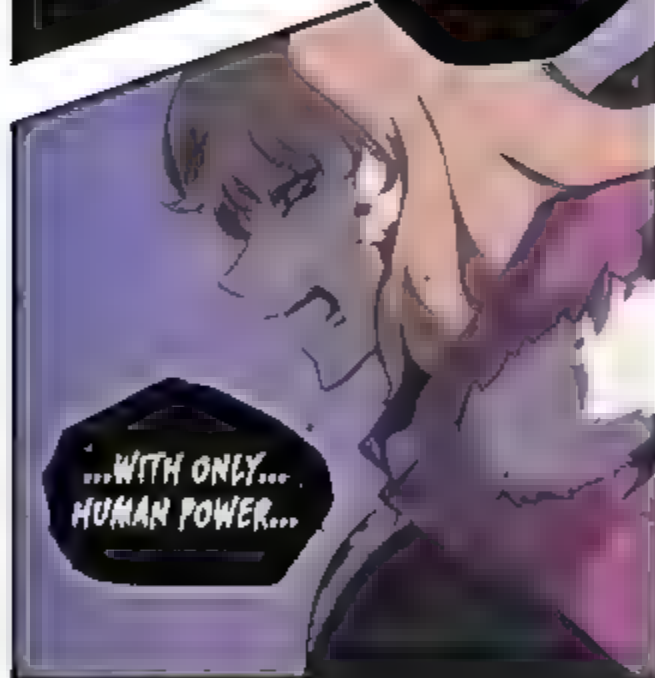


HUMANS...

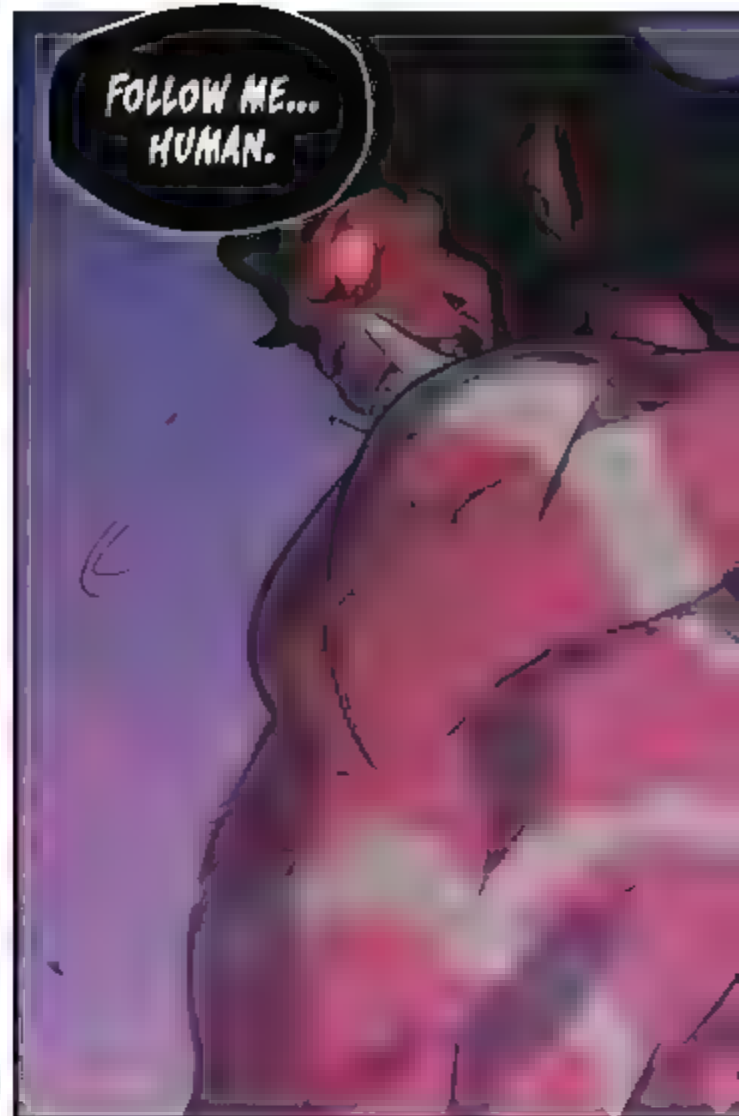


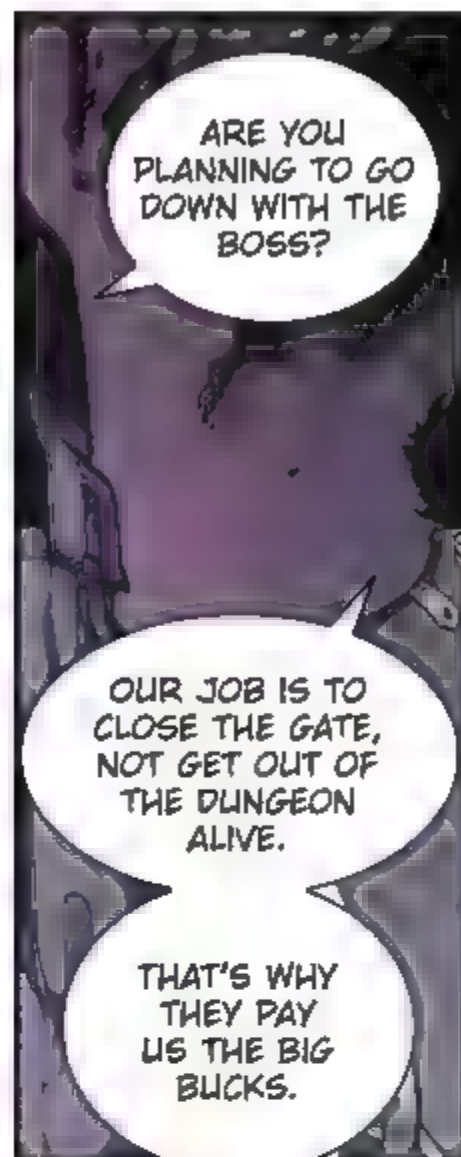
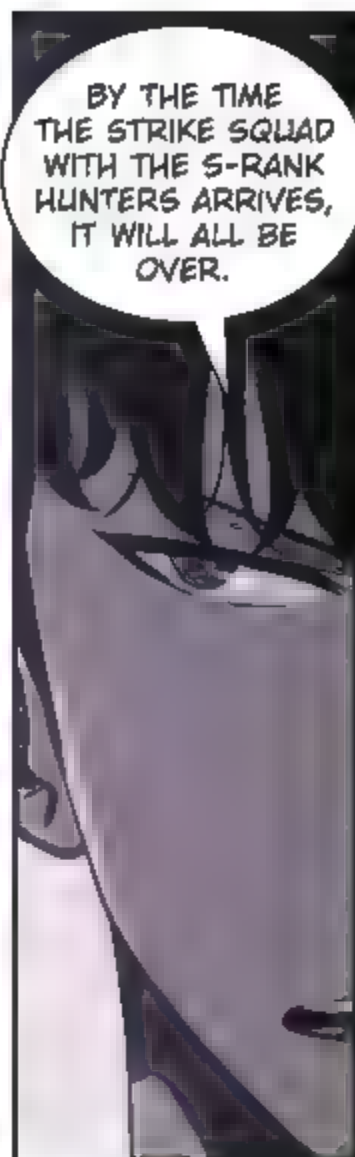
LISTEN UP,
HUMANS...

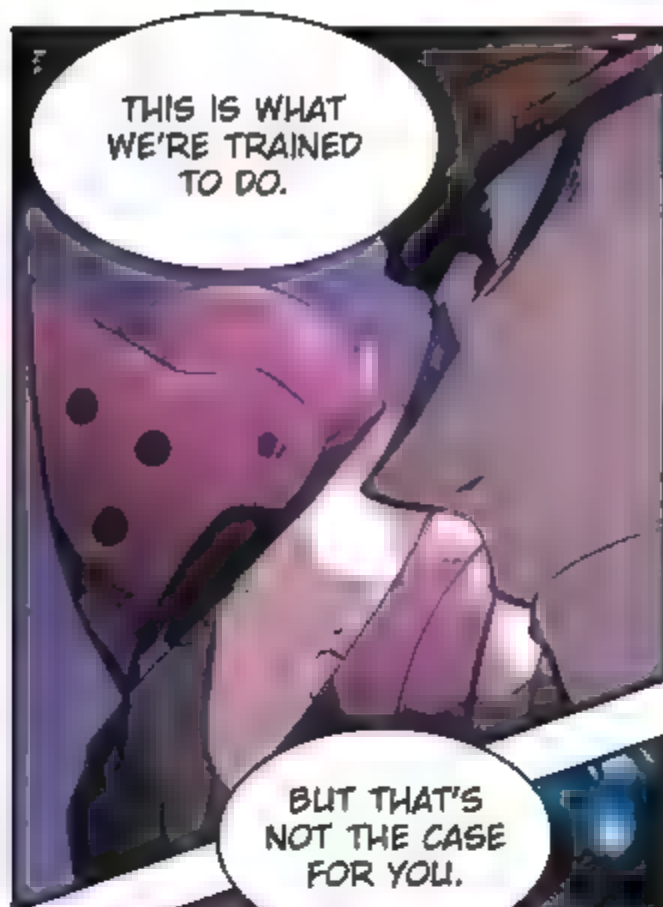


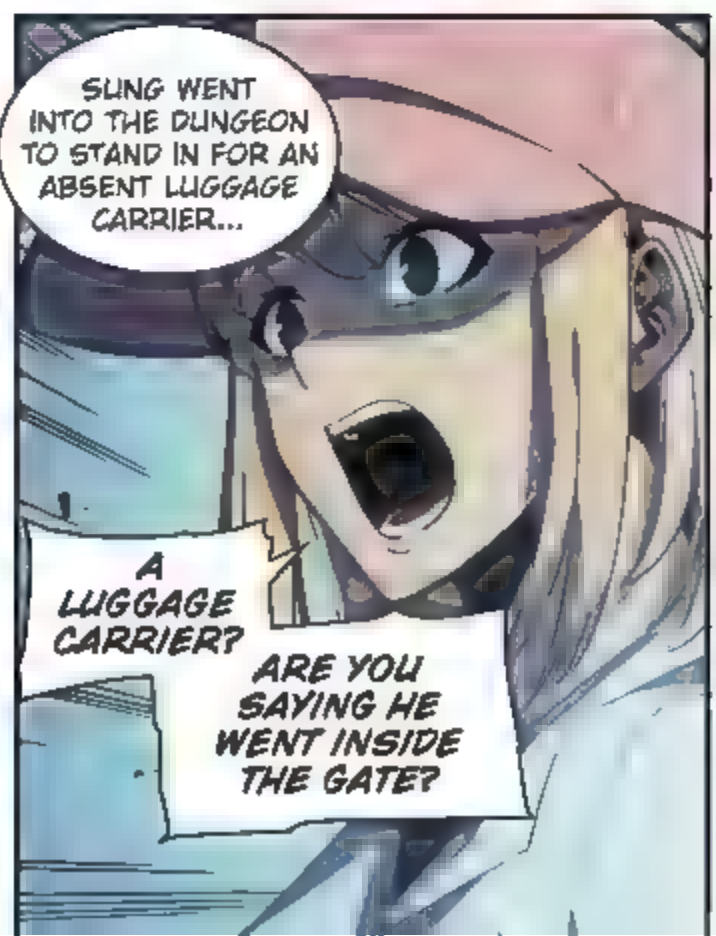
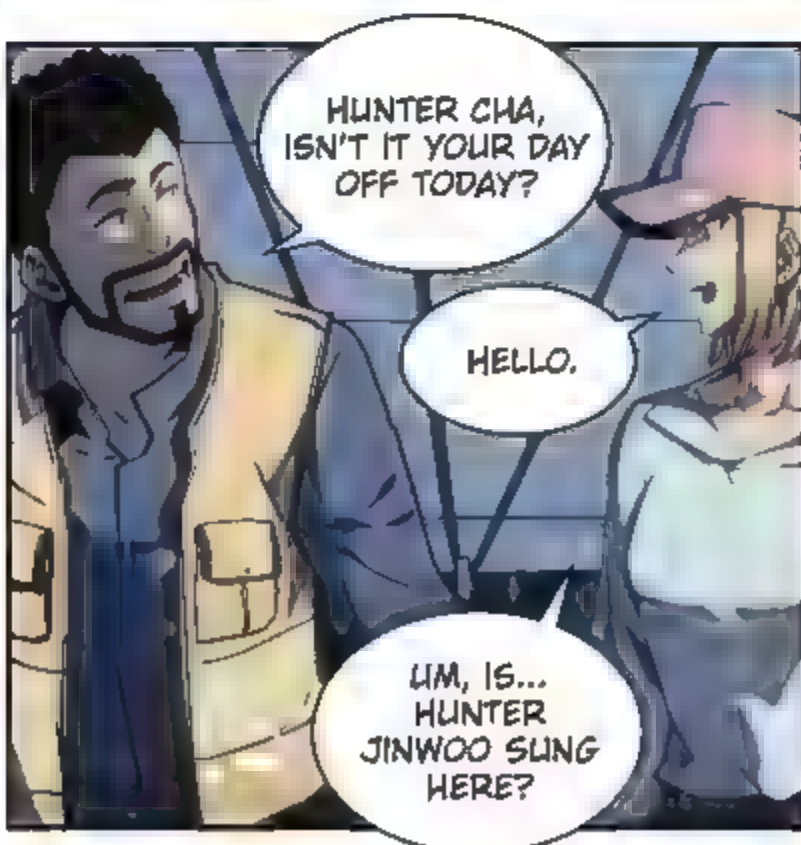


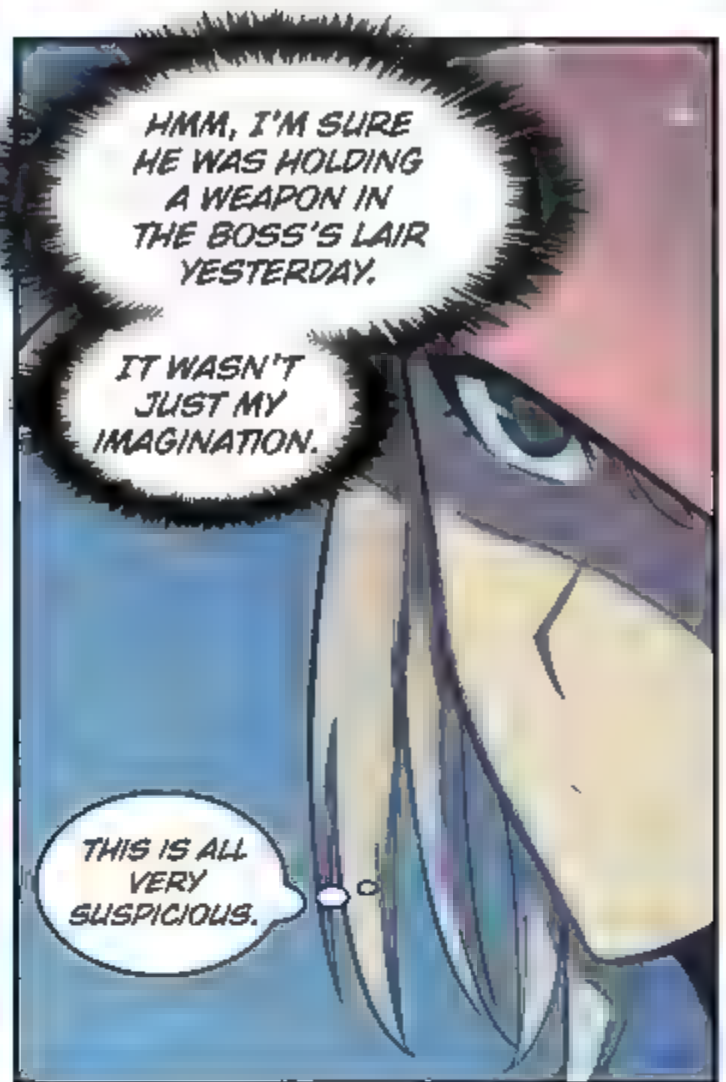




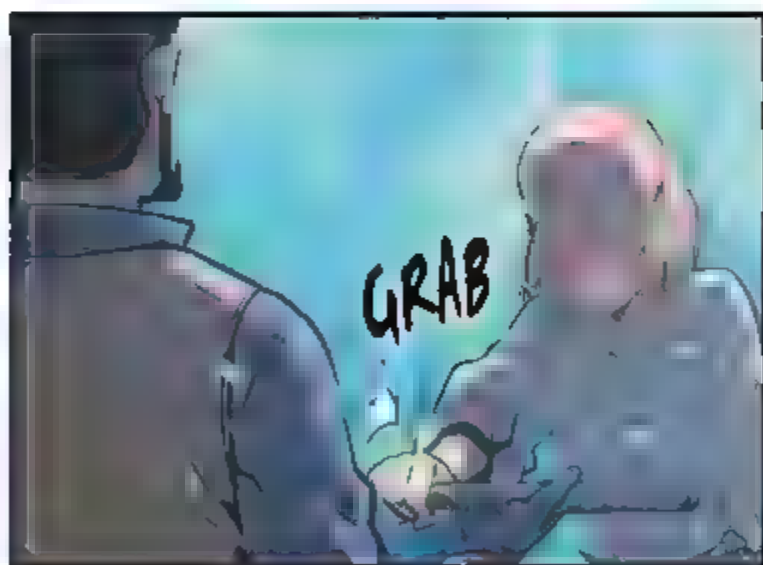


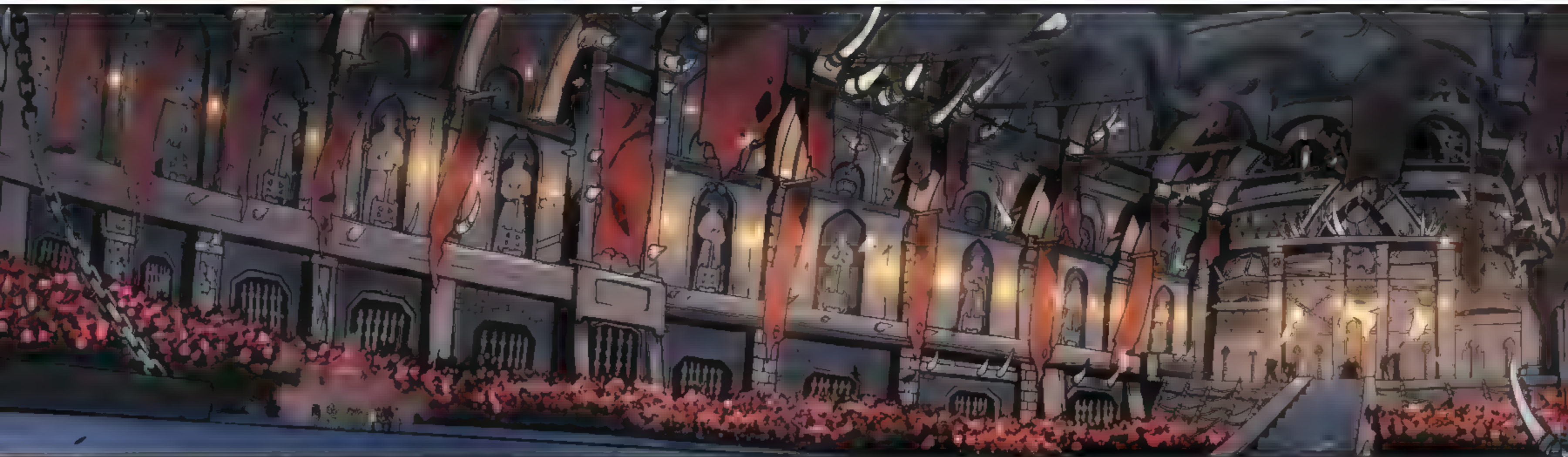
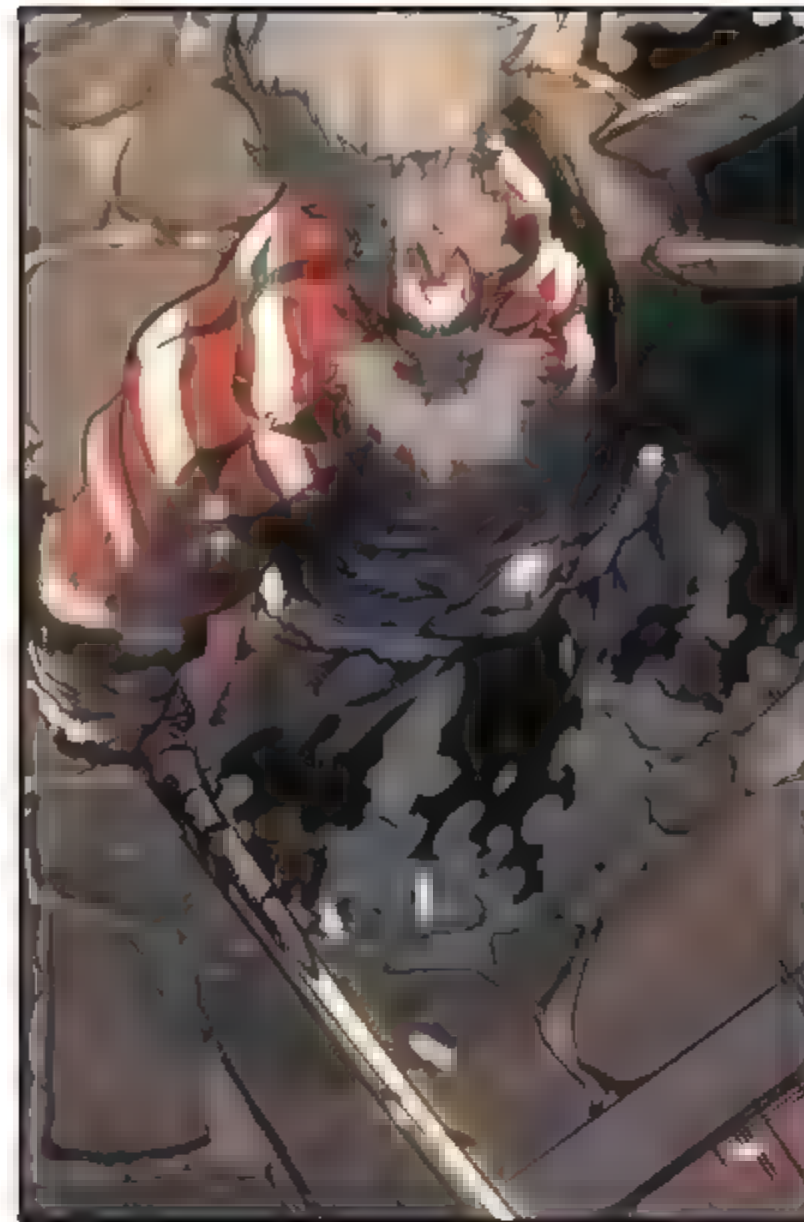
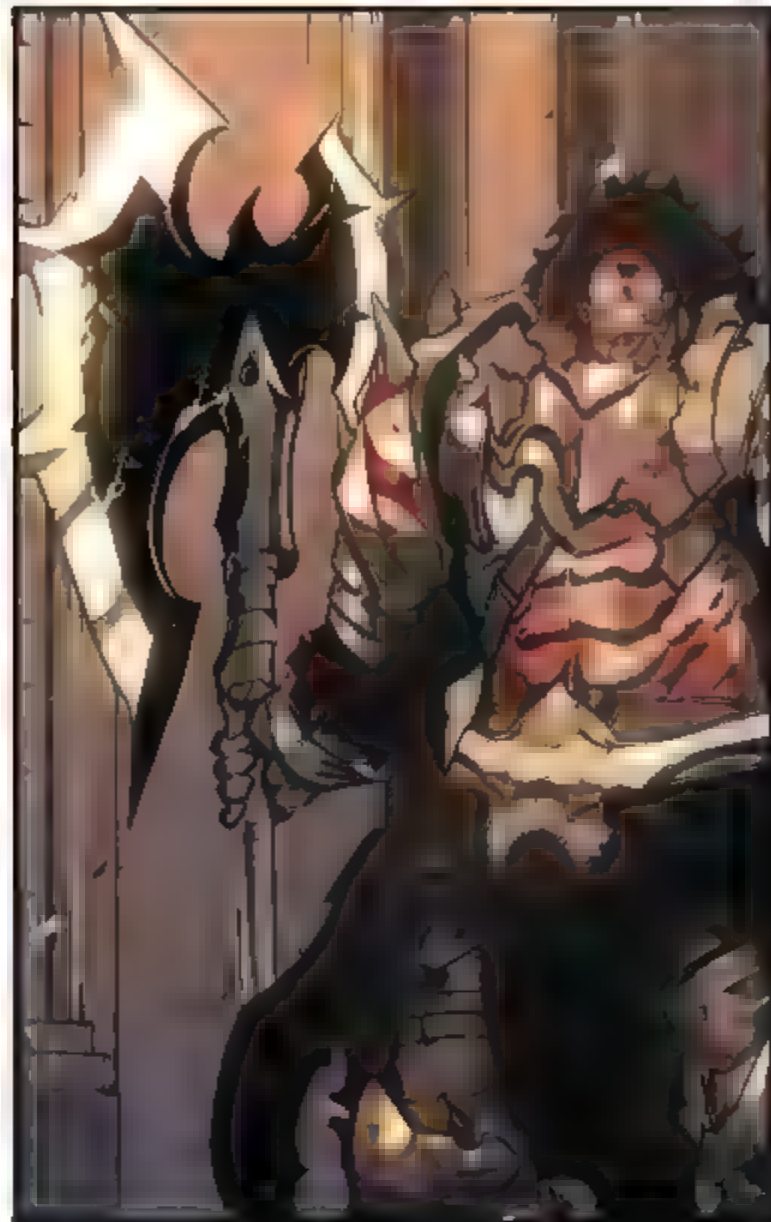
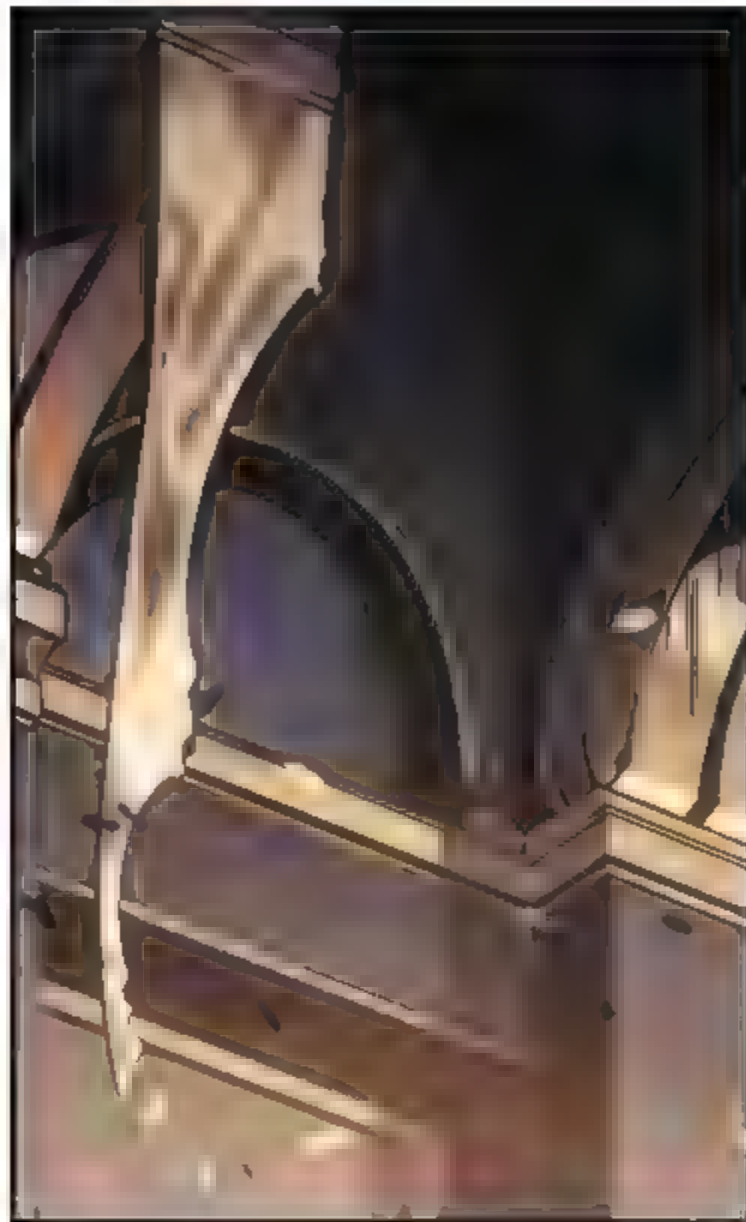




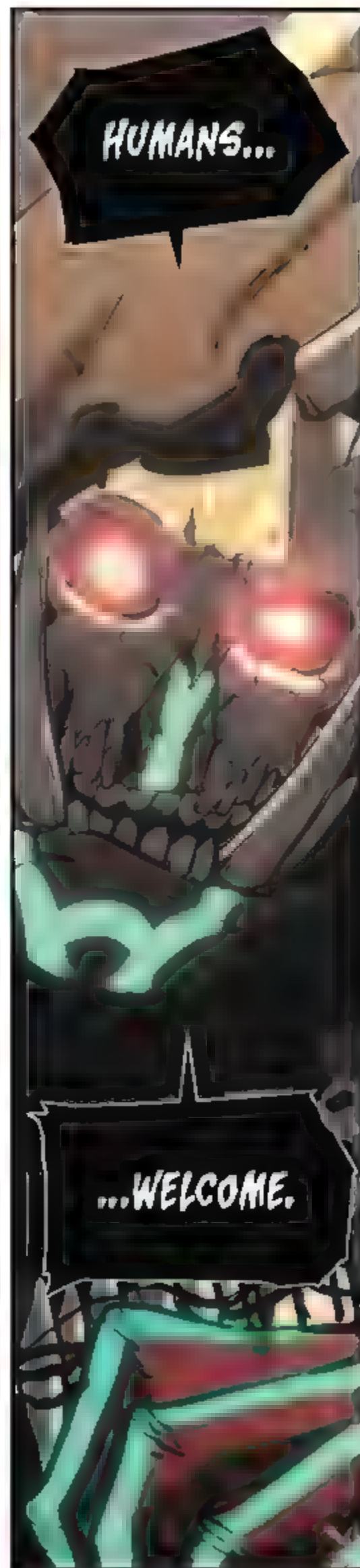
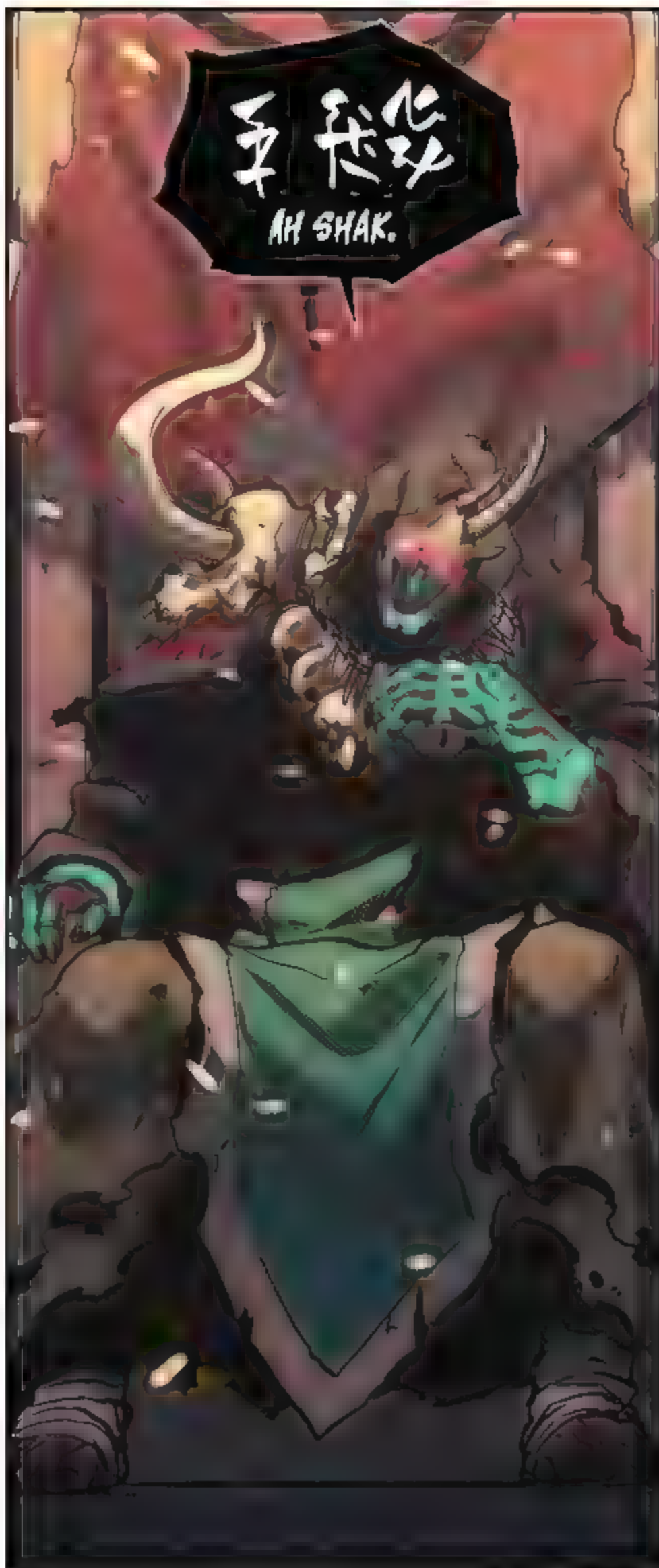


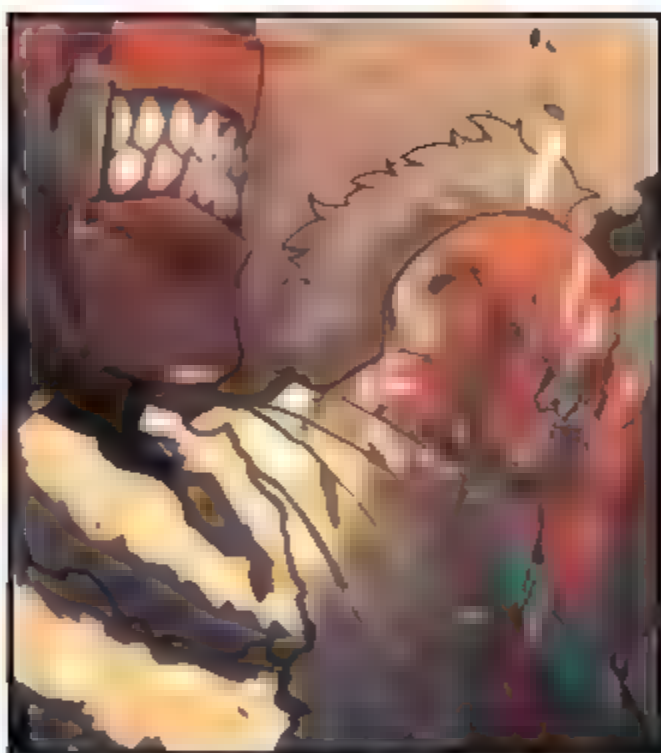
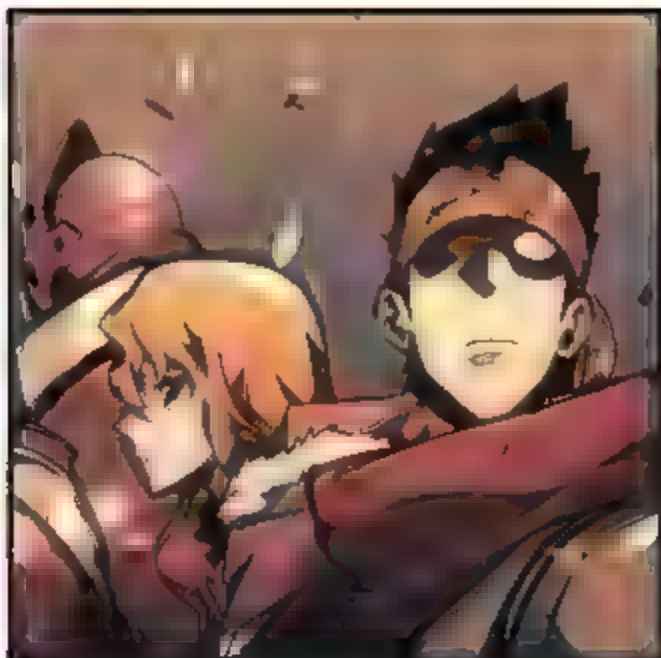










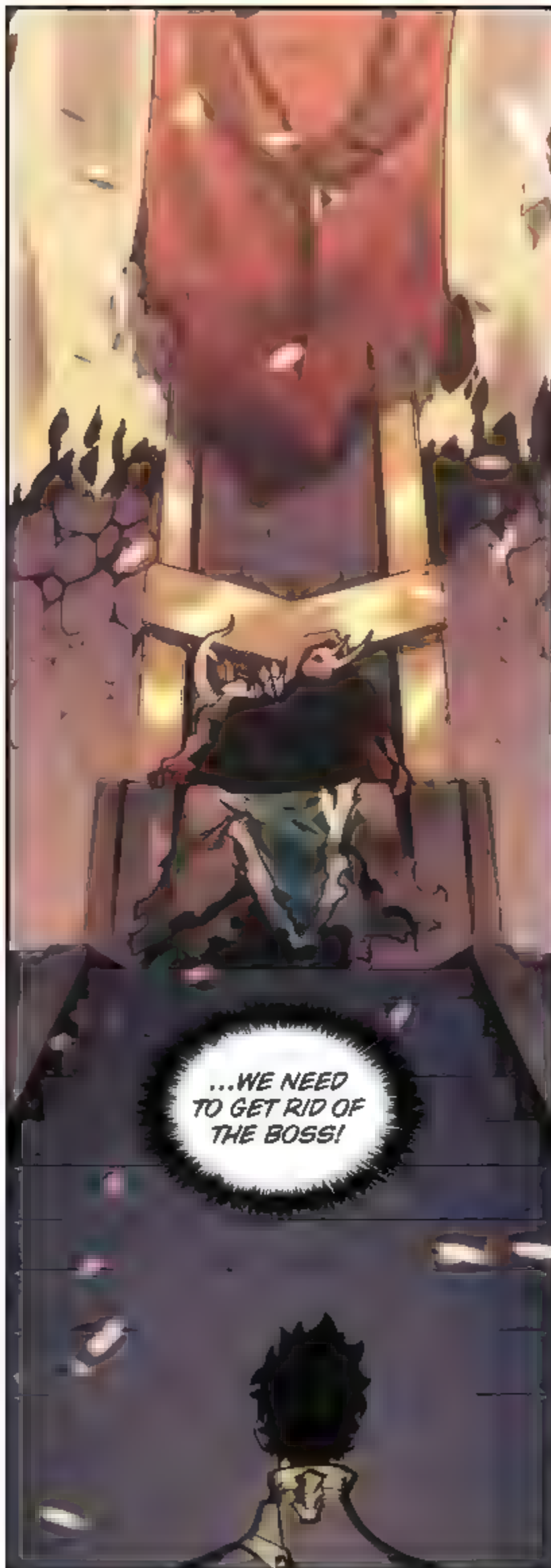


IF THIS MANY
HIGH ORCS EVER
ESCAPED FROM
THE GATE...!

THERE
ARE ENOUGH OF
THEM THAT THEY
COULD DESTROY A
SMALL CITY BEFORE
THE STRONGEST
HUNTERS COULD
EVEN ARRIVE.



AT
LEAST...



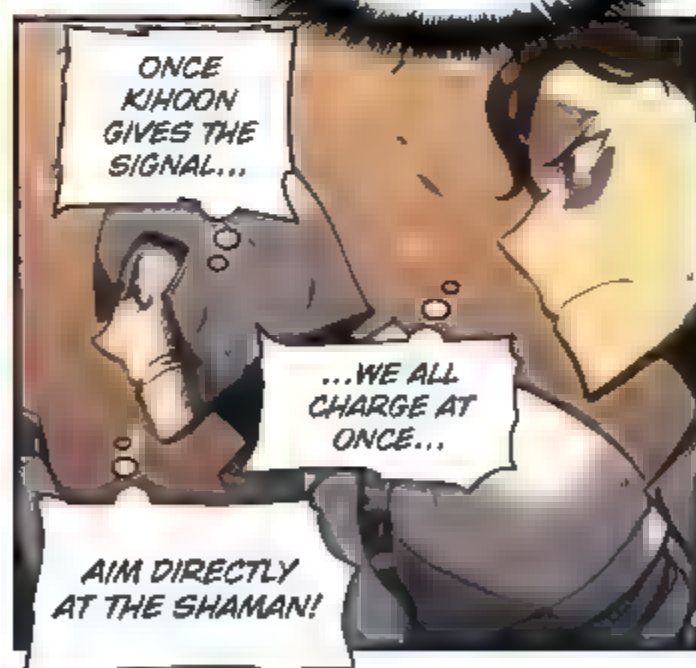
...WE NEED
TO GET RID OF
THE BOSS!



THE FOUR
GUARDS DON'T
SEEM TO BE
TYPICAL HIGH
ORCS.



CAN WE EVEN
GET PAST THOSE
GUARDS TO TAKE
OUT THE BOSS?



ONCE
KIHOON
GIVES THE
SIGNAL...

...WE ALL
CHARGE AT
ONCE...

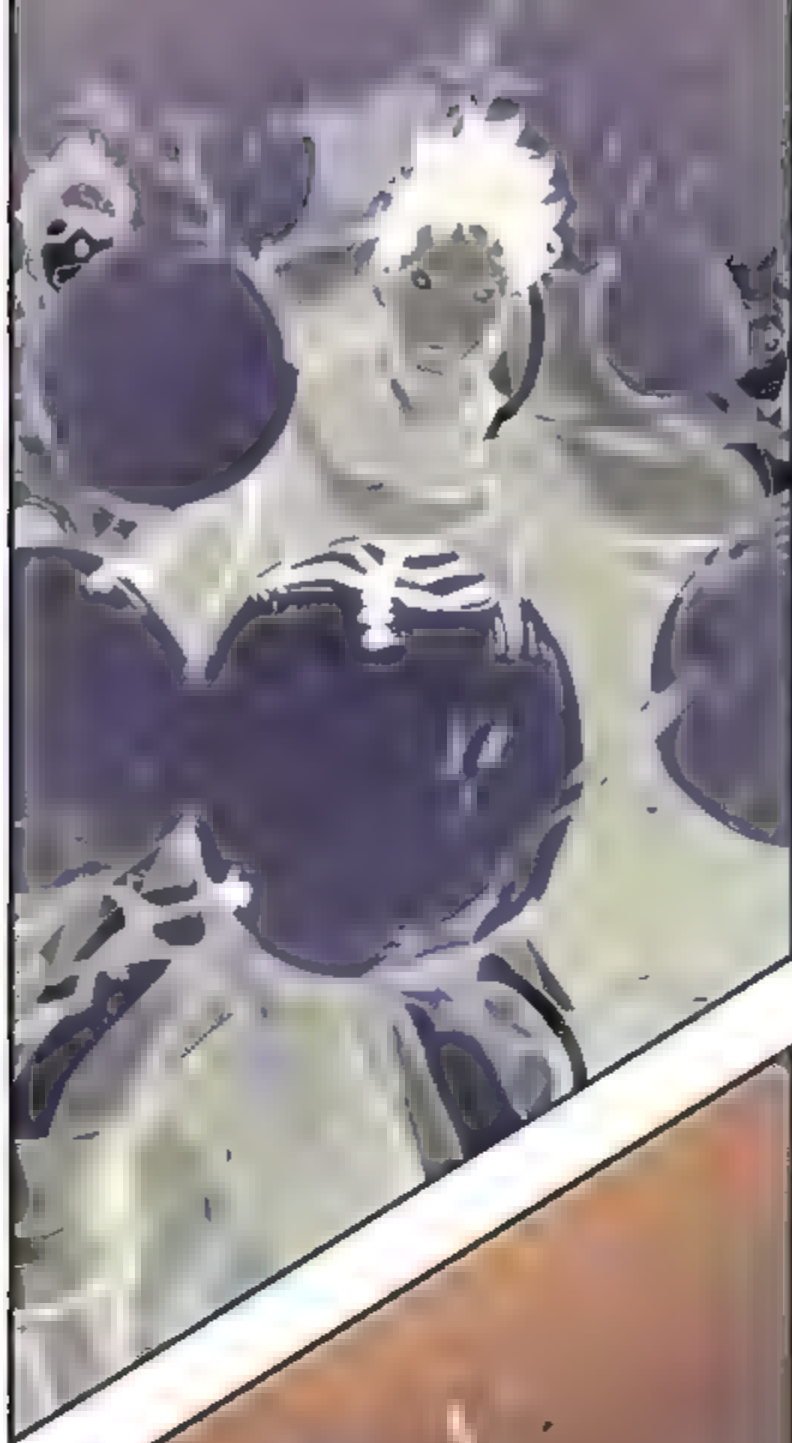
AIM DIRECTLY
AT THE SHAMAN!



ARE YOU
AFRAID OF ME...

...HUMANS?



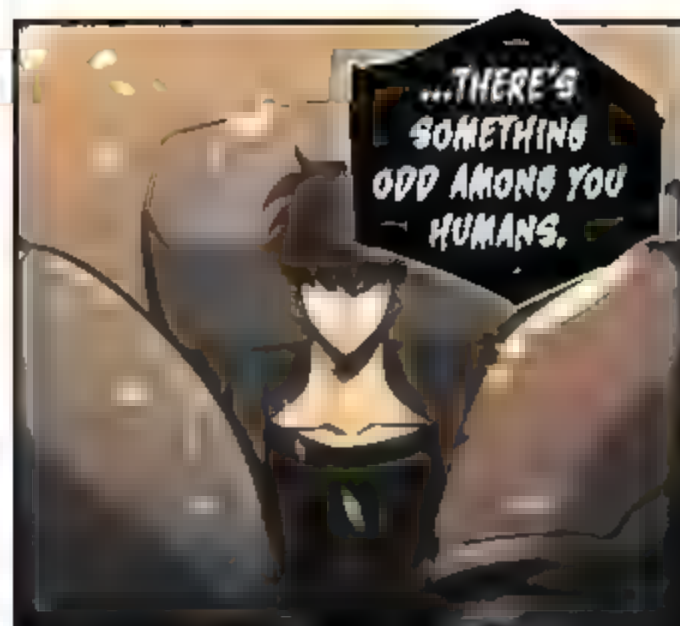






WHILE WE BIDE
OUR TIME, I'M GOING
TO KILL YOU ONE BY
ONE FOR MY MINIONS'
AMUSEMENT!

GRA
VA
AAH



...THERE'S
SOMETHING
ODD AMONG YOU
HUMANS.



FOR
ENTERTAIN-
MENT?

OUR DESPERATE
RESISTANCE IS
ONLY FOR THEIR
ENTERTAINMENT?

THAT MAGIC
BEAST DOESN'T
CONSIDER US AS
THEIR ENEMIES.



HOWEVER...



TO THIS
BASTARD, OUR
LIVES ARE...



...PLAYTHINGS
FOR HIS
AMUSEMENT?!

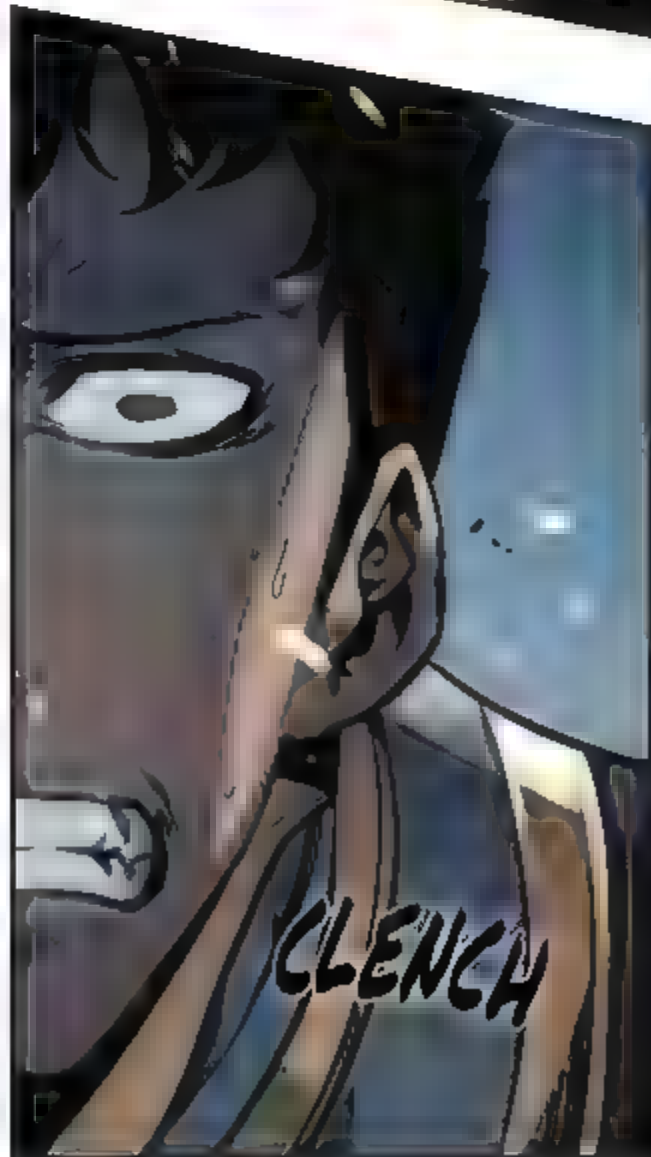
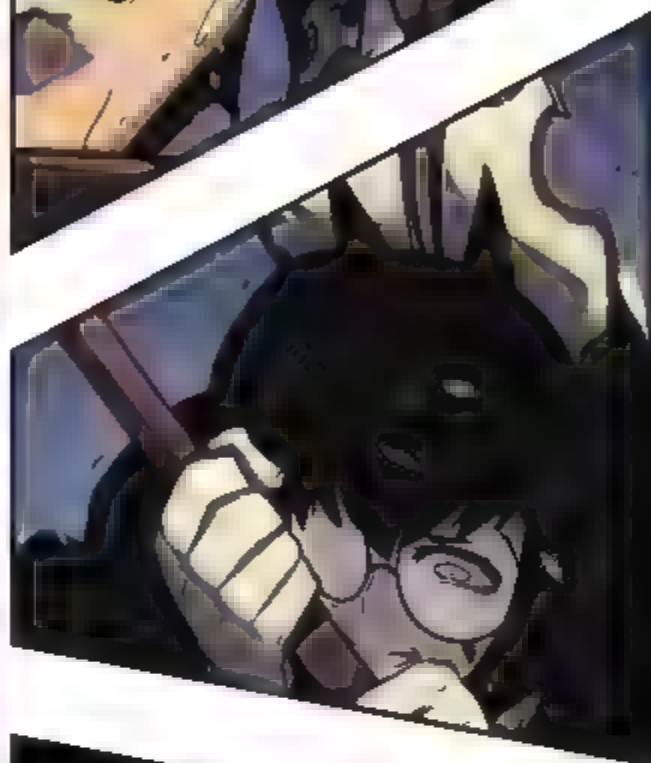
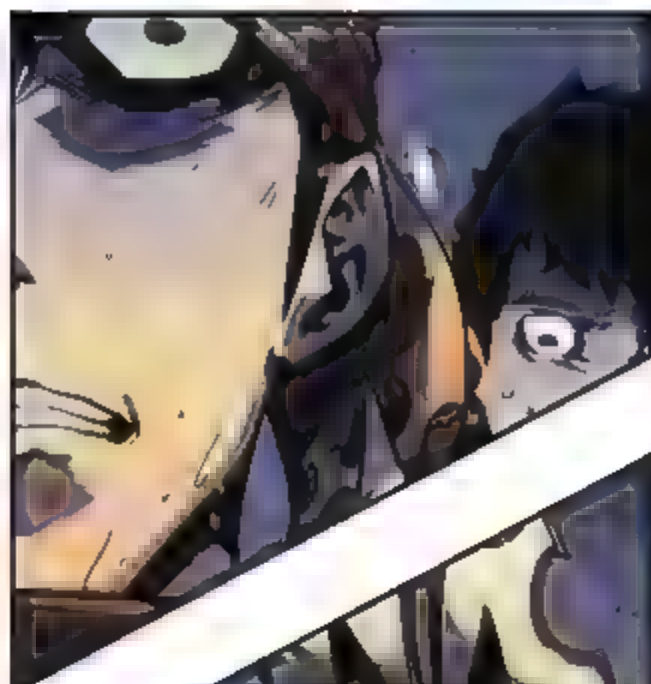
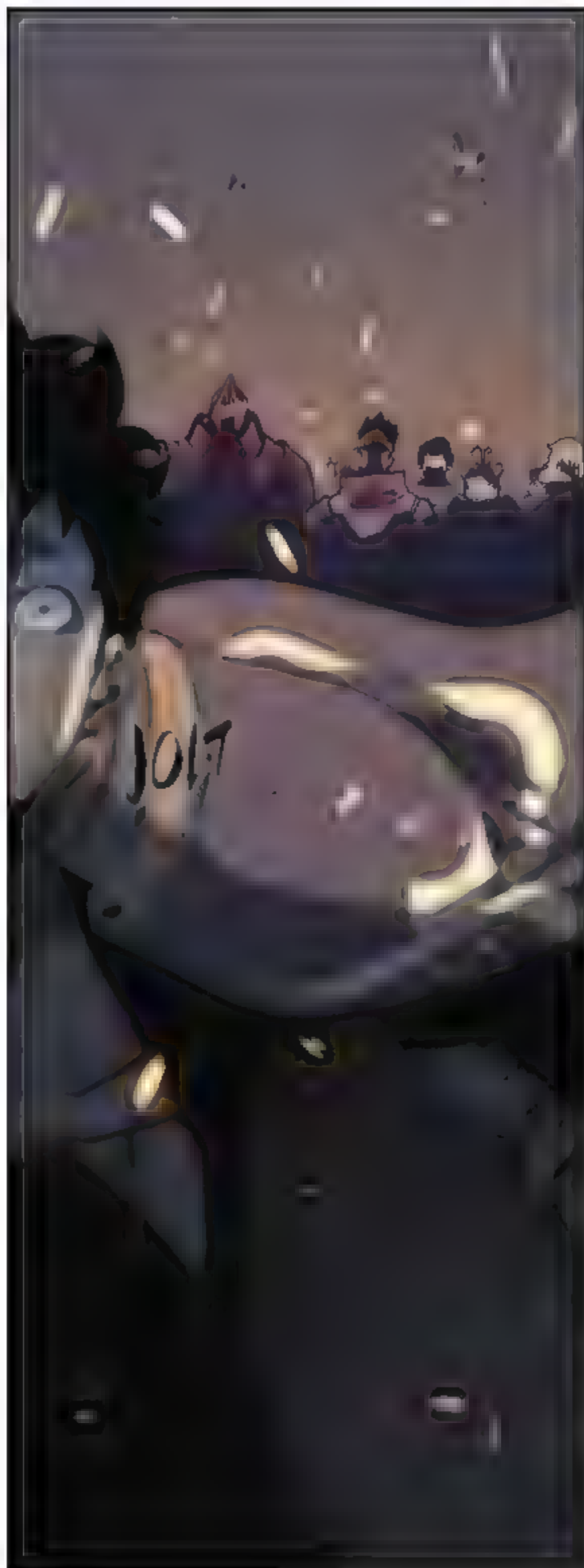
NOW!

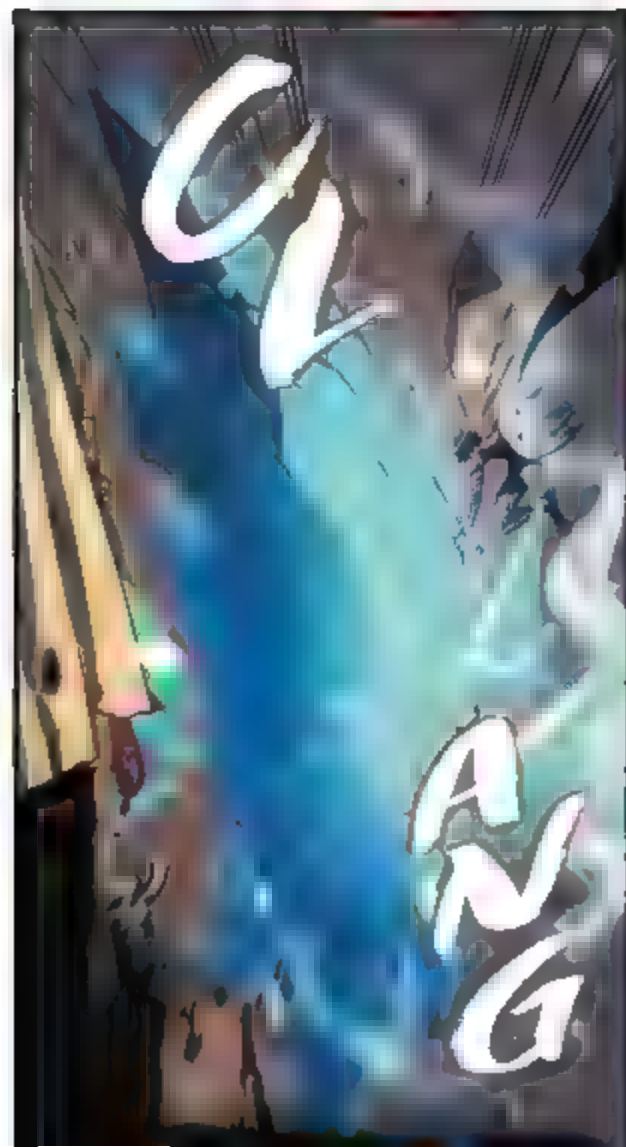
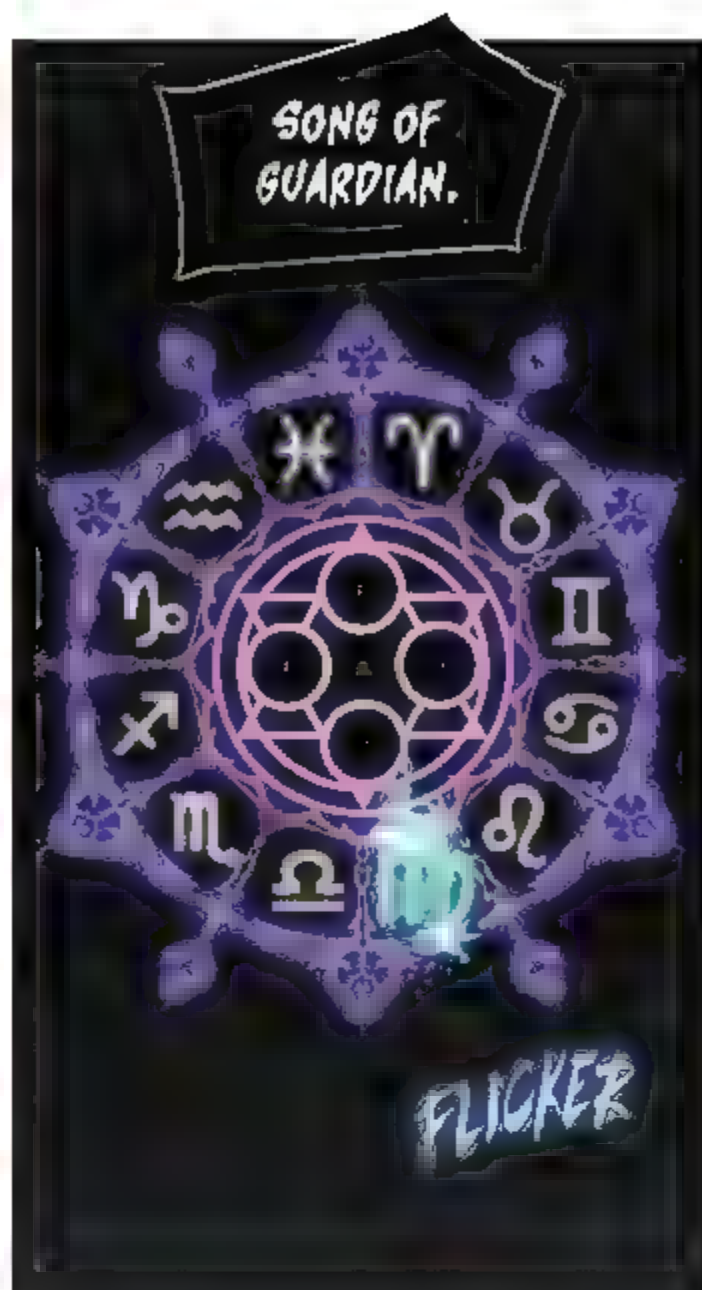
This panel is a close-up of a character's face, showing a large, dark eye and a wide, toothy grin. A speech bubble is positioned near the top of the face.

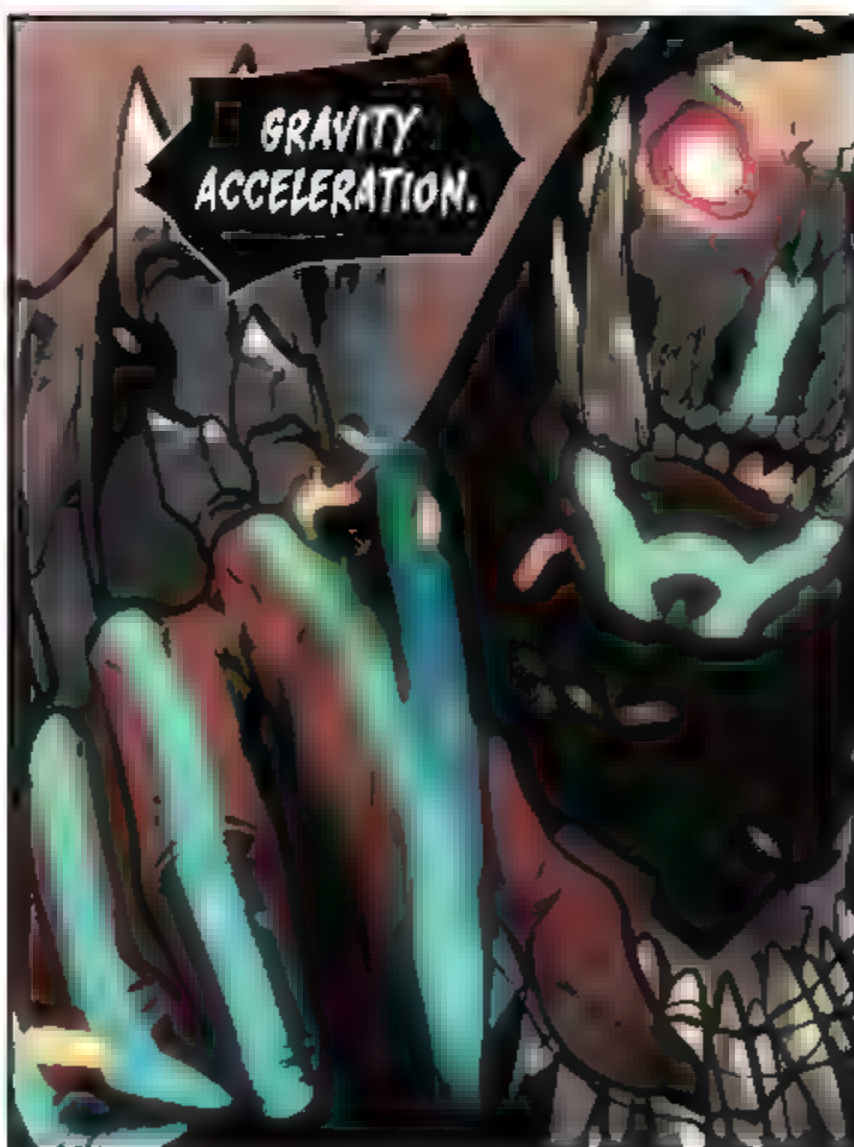
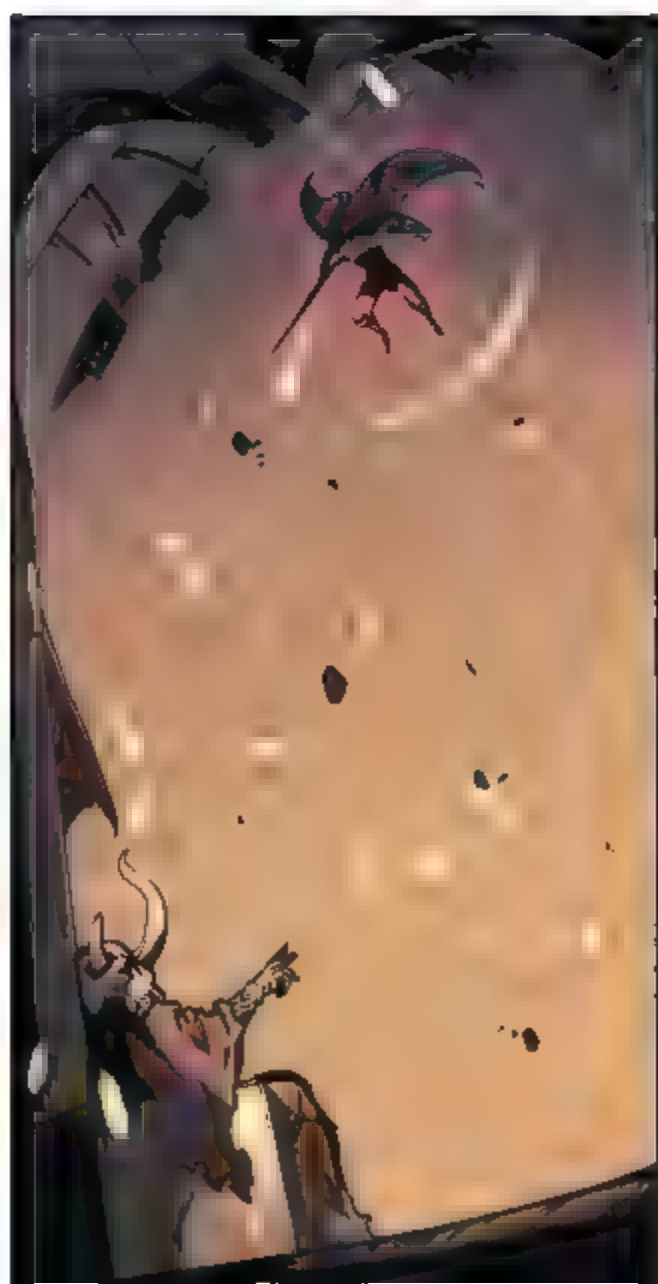
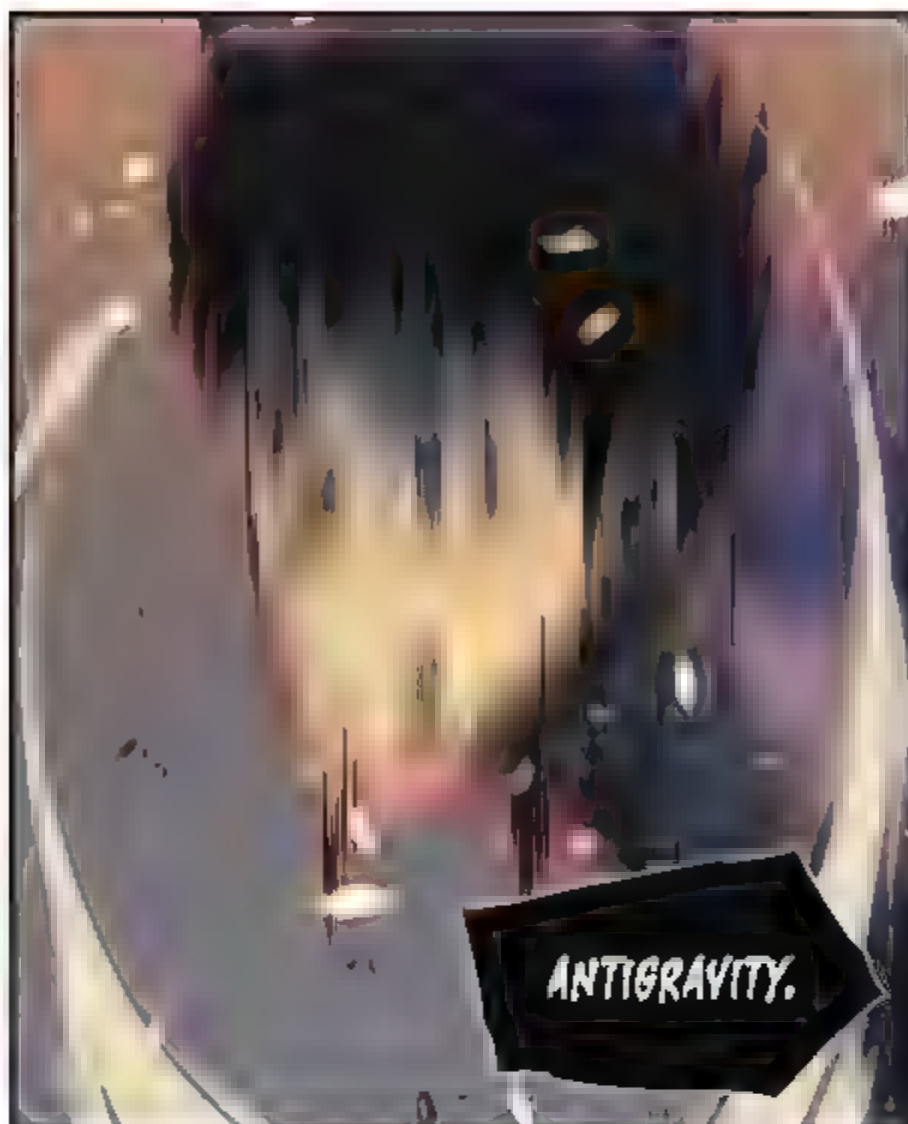
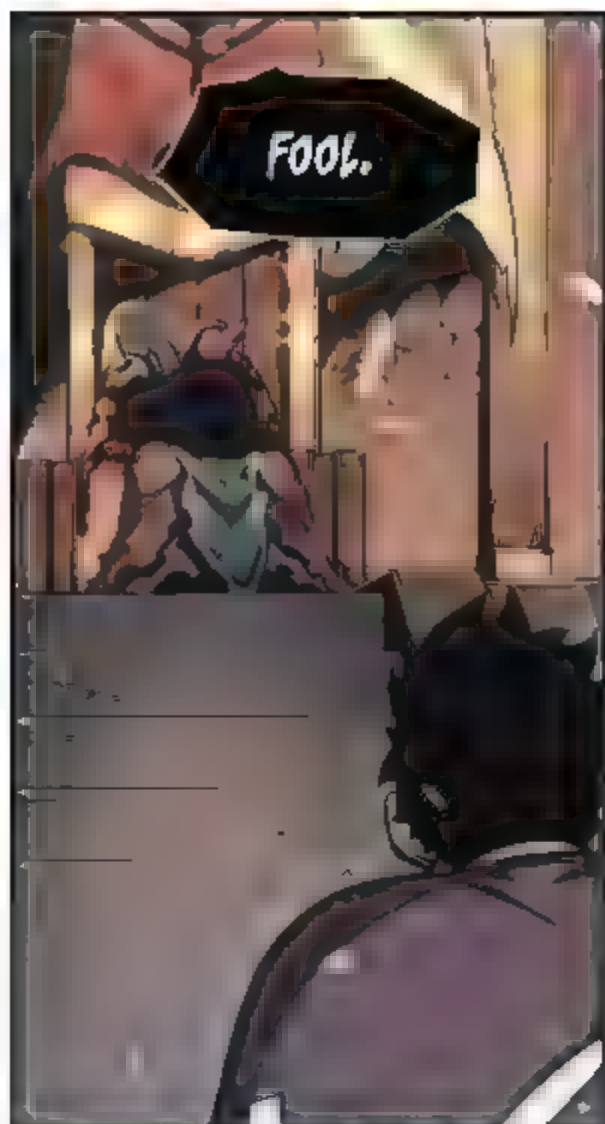


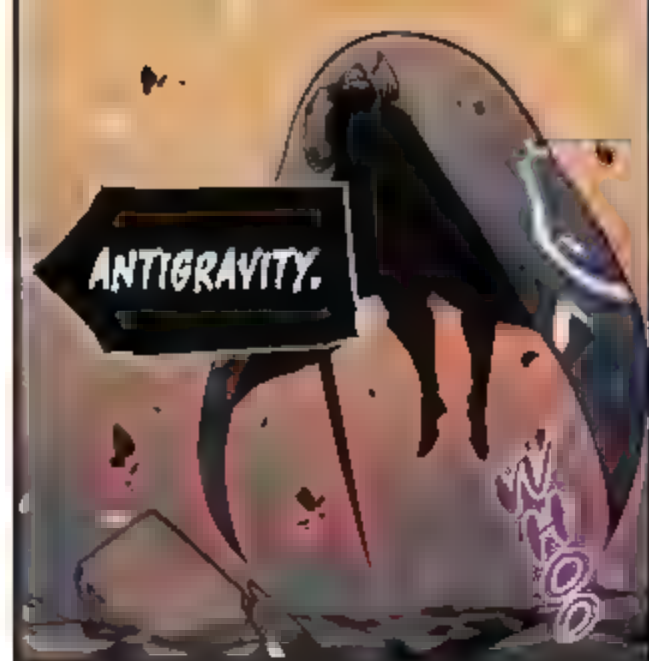
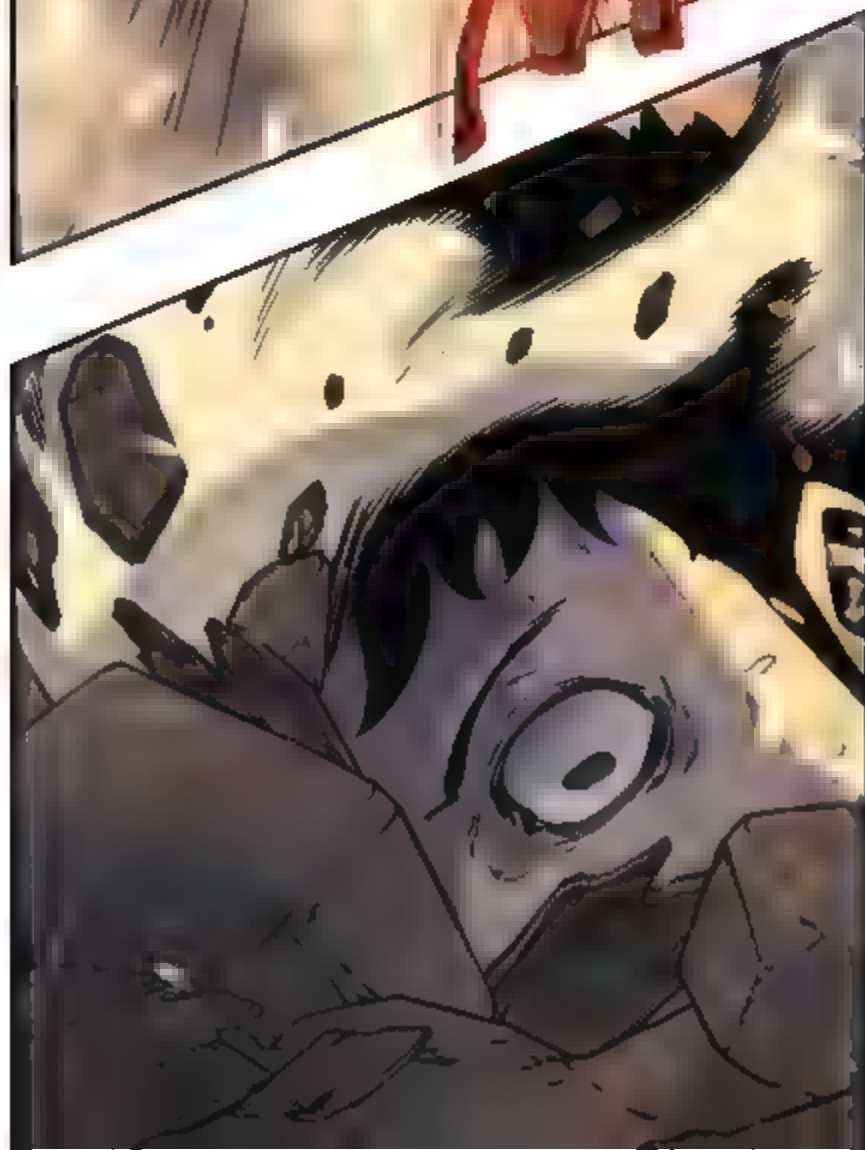
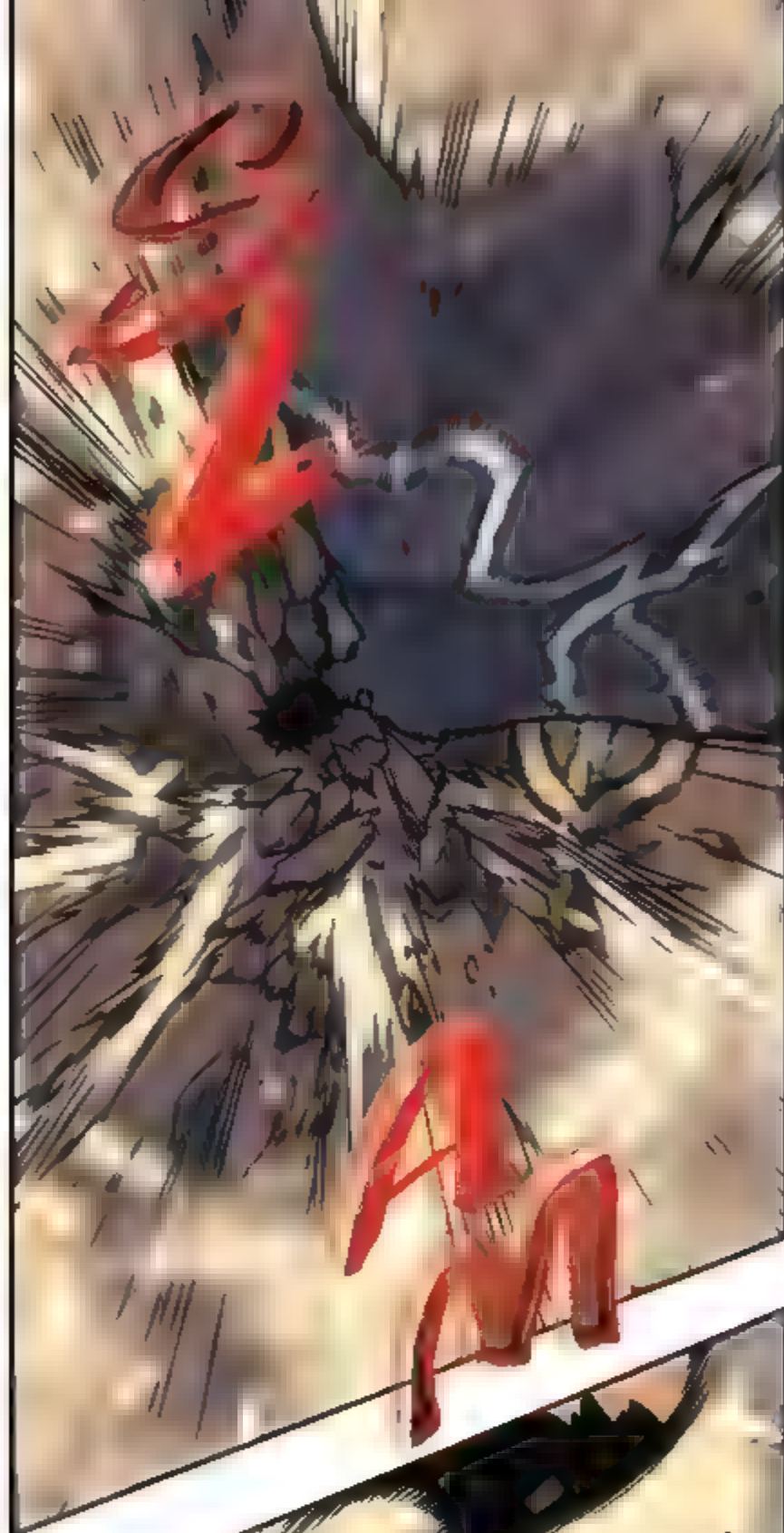
EVERYONE,
CHARGE!!

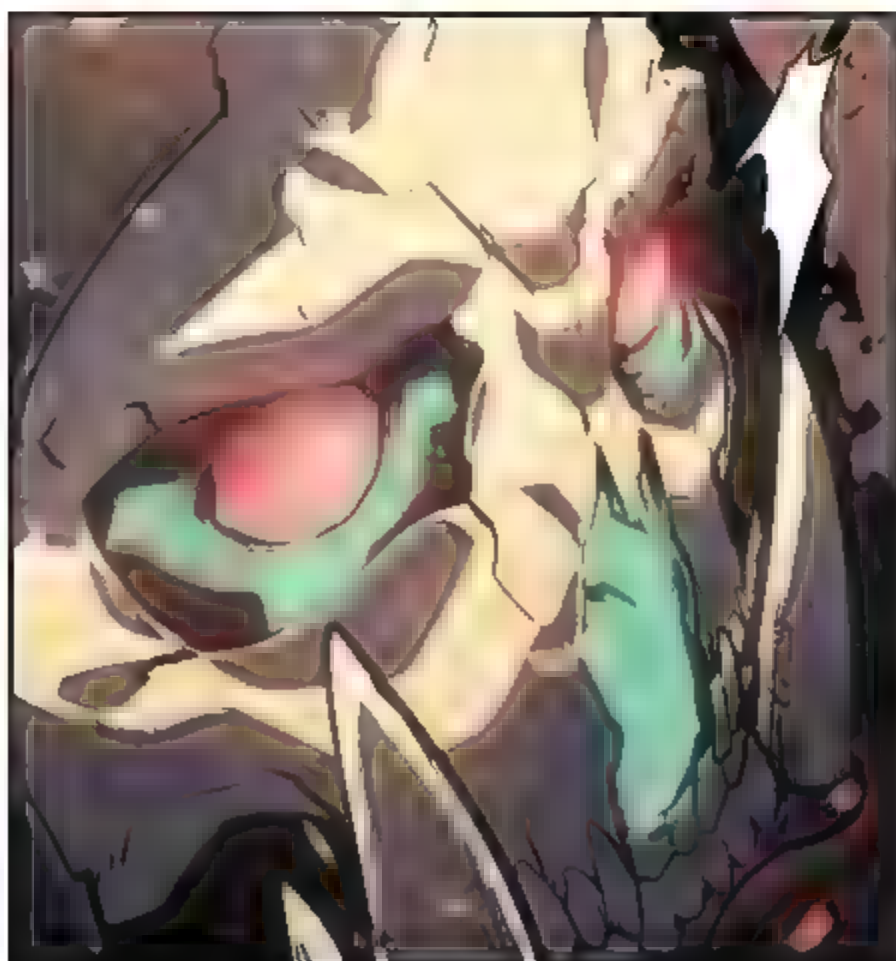
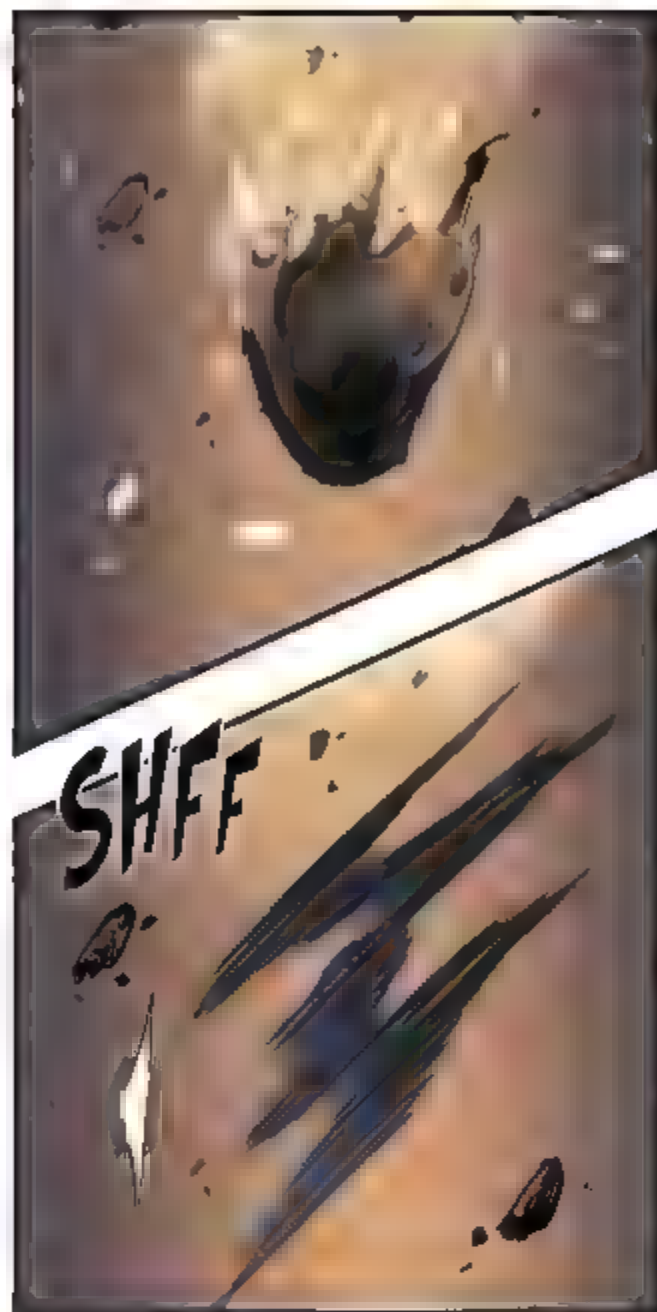
This panel shows a character in a dynamic pose, shouting. The character is wearing a dark, hooded garment and has a determined expression. The background is dark and blurry, suggesting a fast-paced action scene.













CAPTAIN.

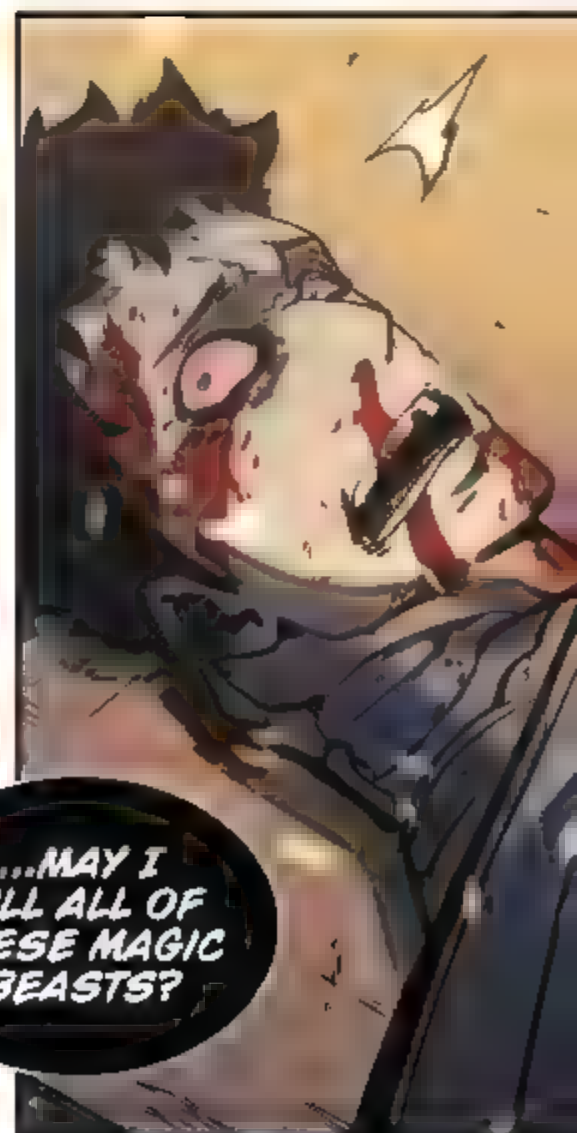


THIS IS
THE HUNTERS
GUILD'S DUNGEON.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED
TO INTERFERE.

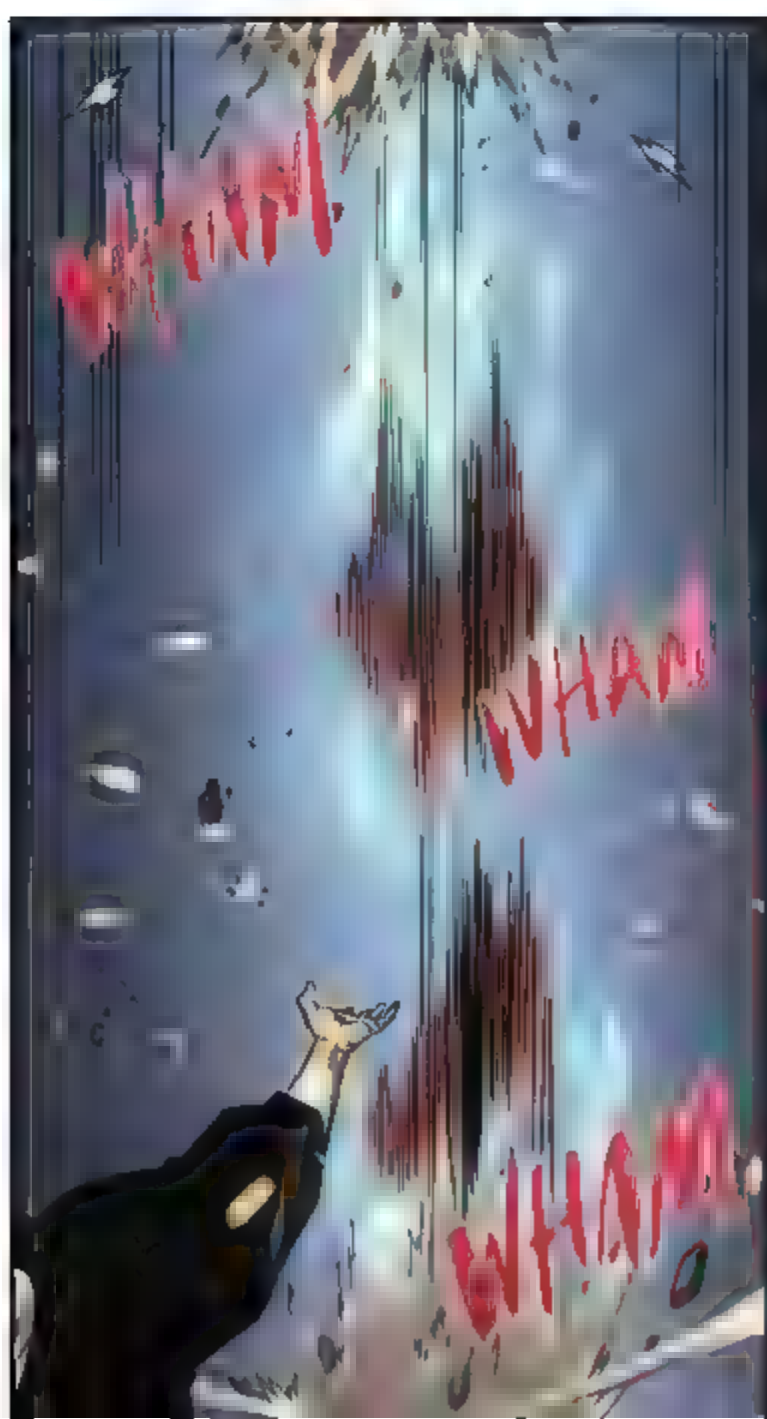
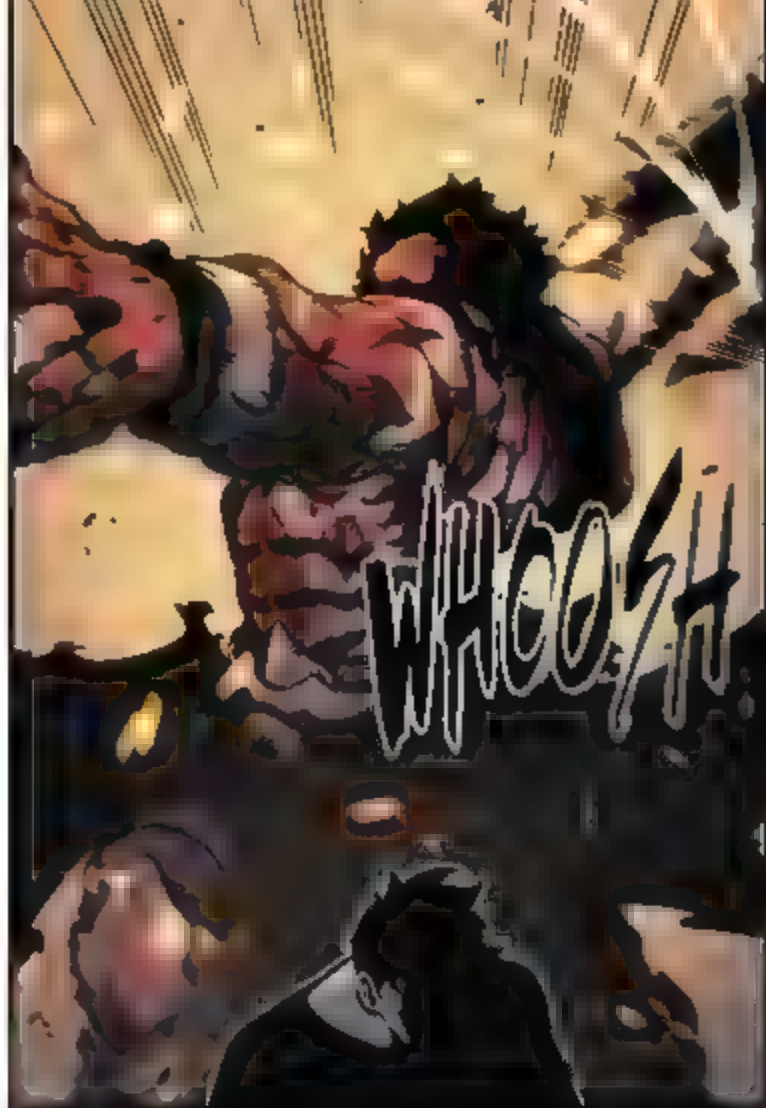
BUT THE
ENTIRE STRIKE
SQUAD IS
ABOUT TO BE
ANNIHILATED.

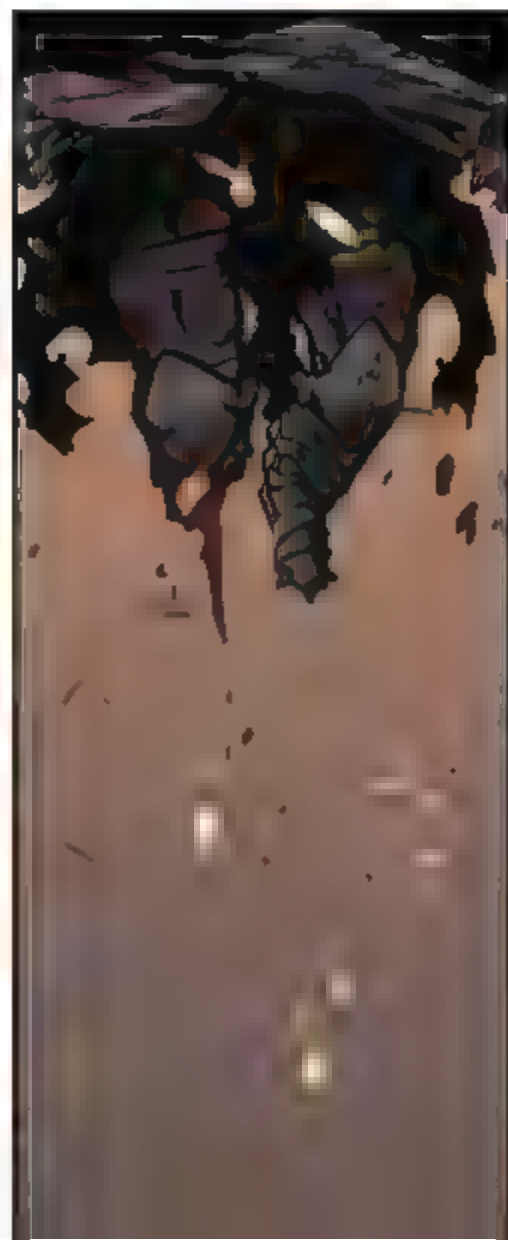
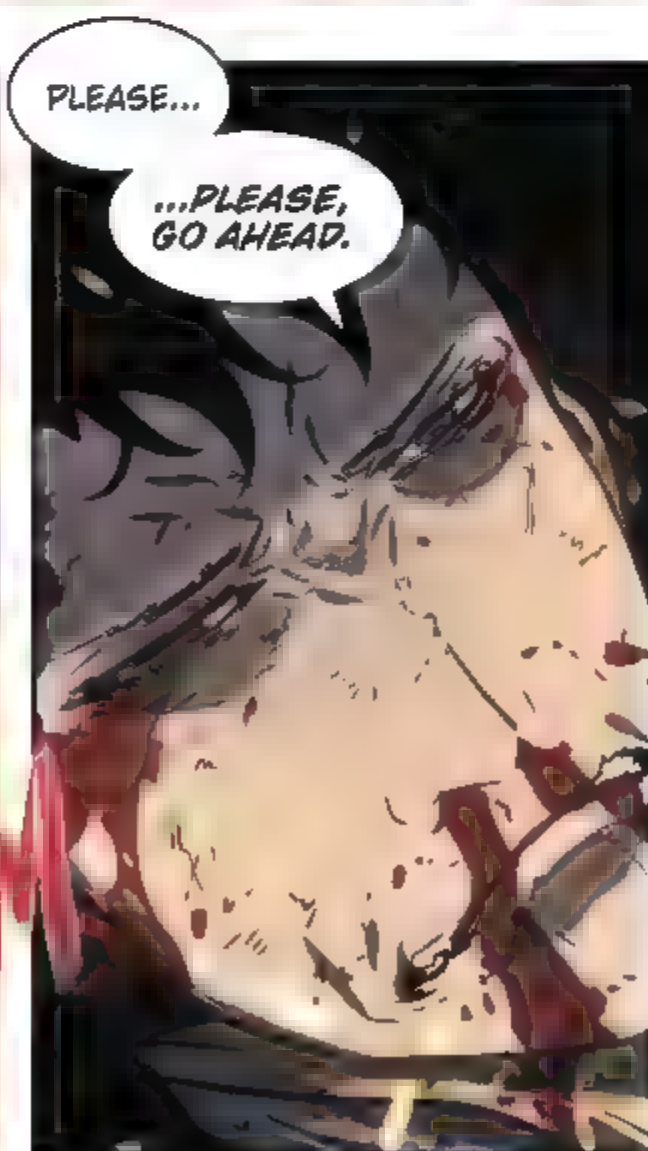
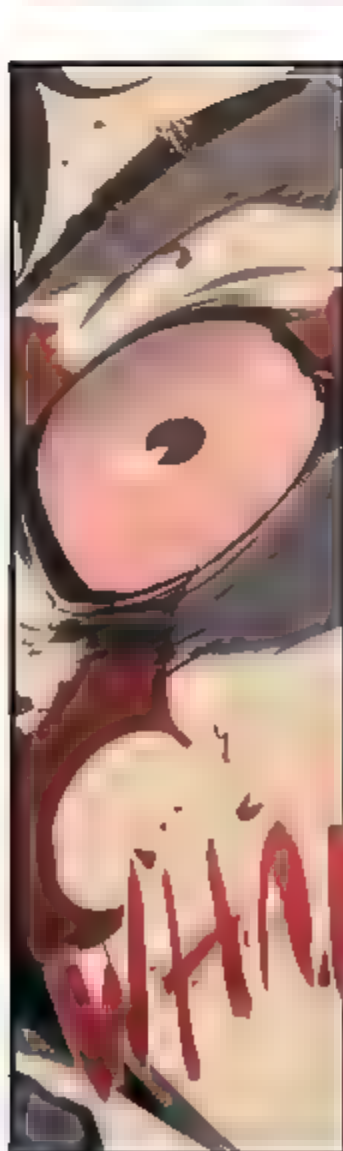


WITH YOUR
PERMISSION...



...MAY I
KILL ALL OF
THESE MAGIC
BEASTS?

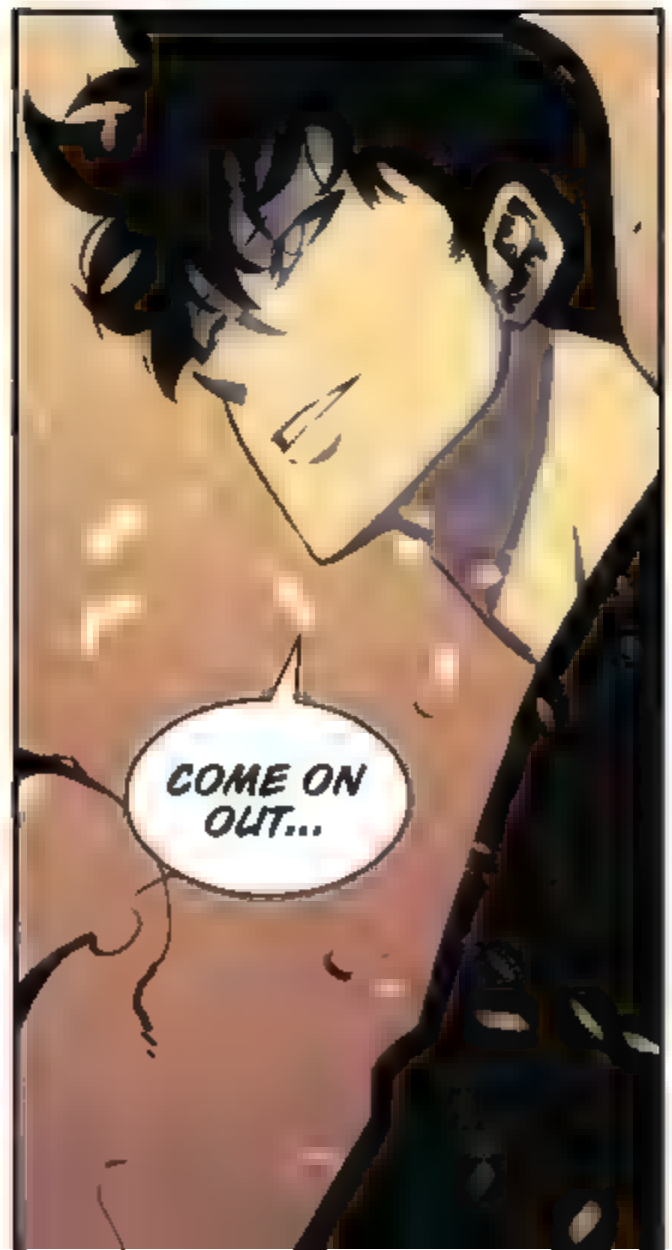


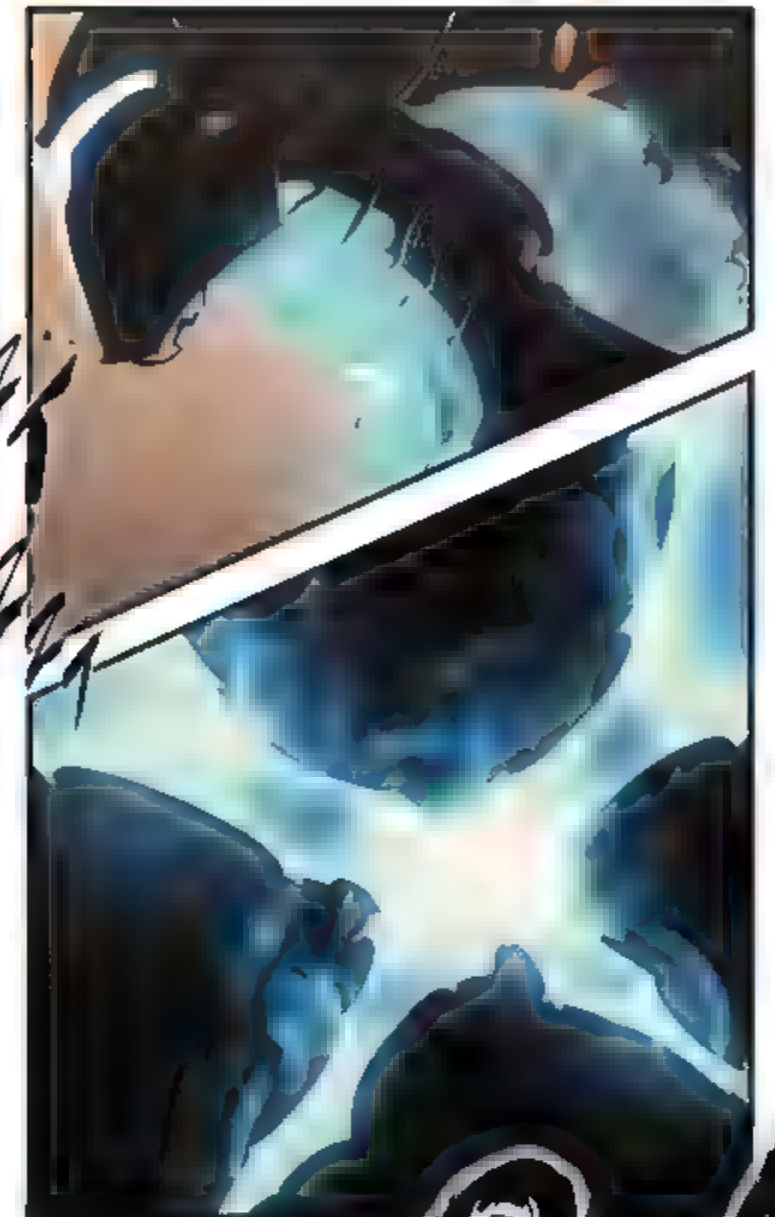
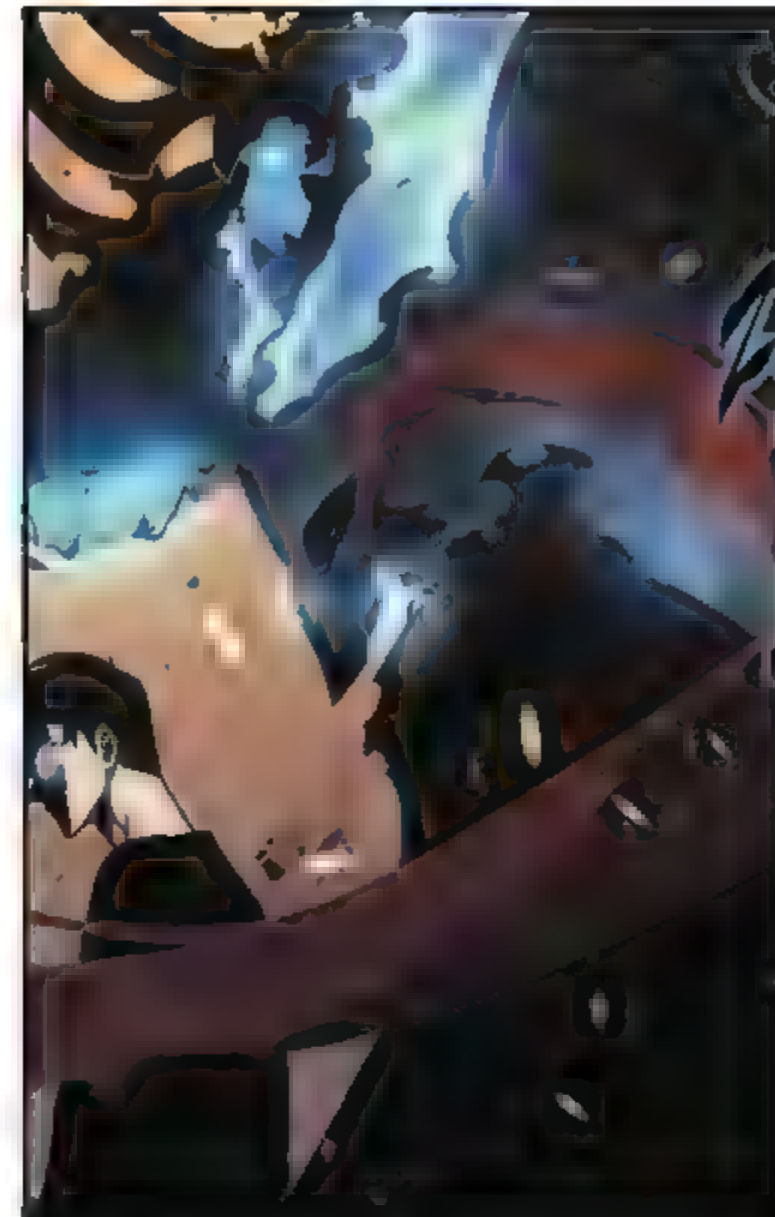
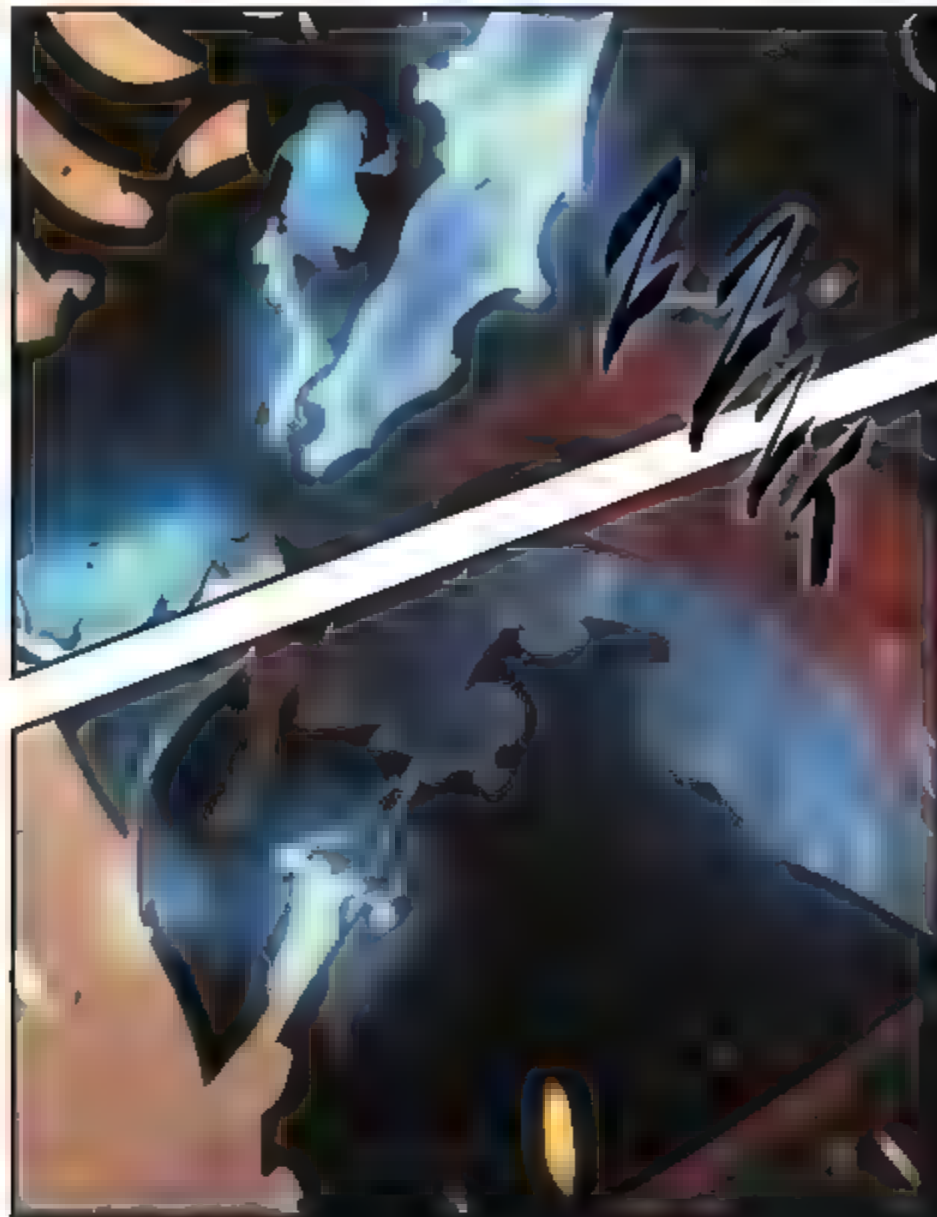
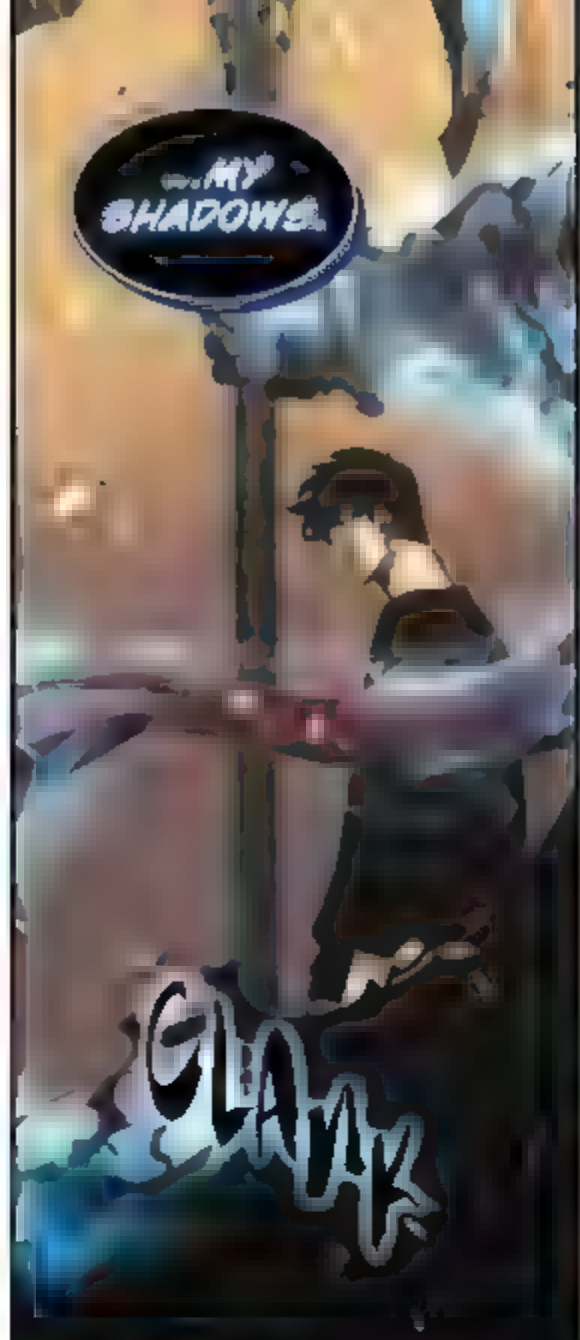


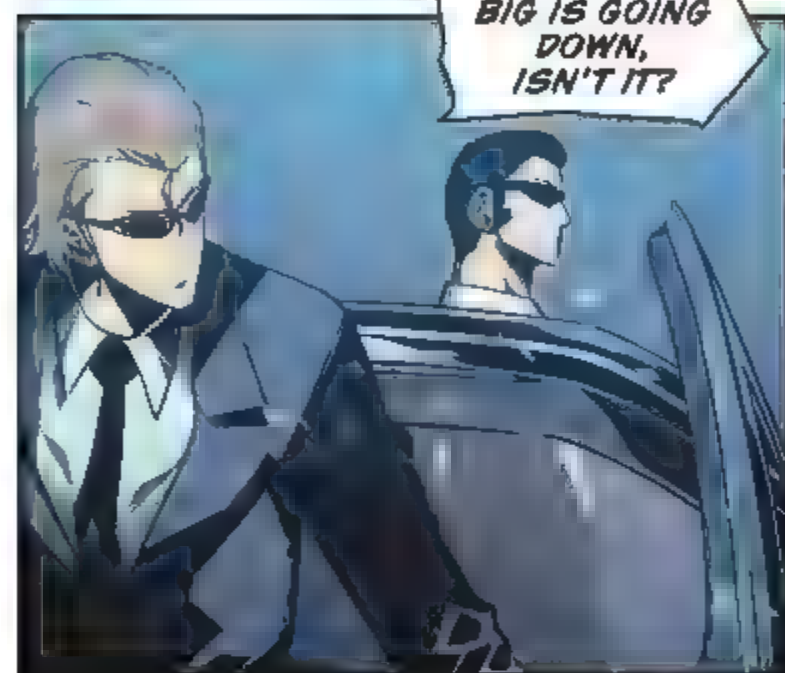


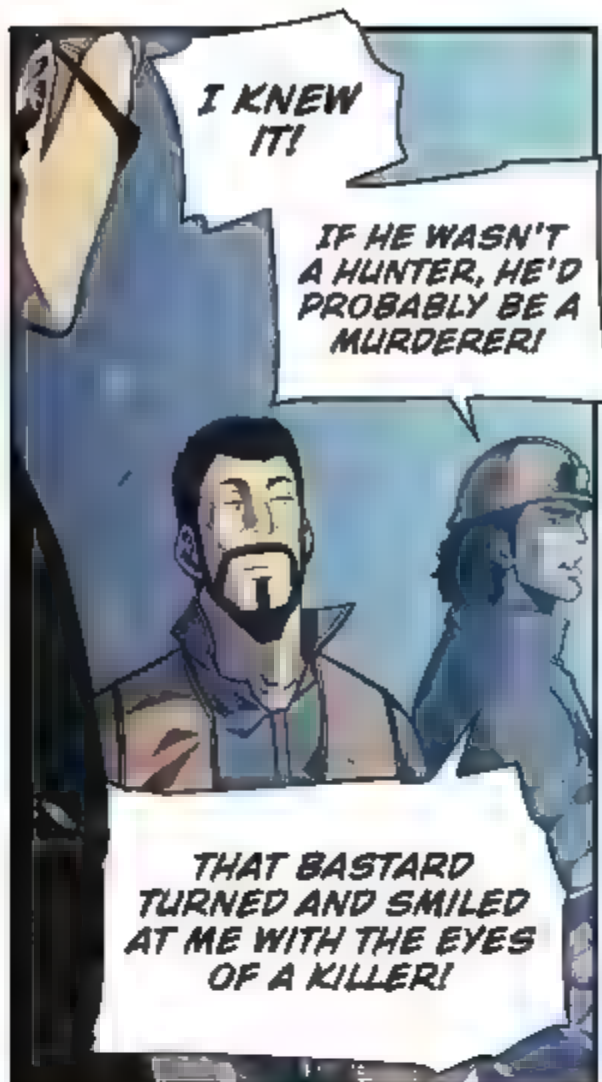
INTERESTING
SKILLS YOU HAVE THERE,
ESPECIALLY FOR A HERE
HUMAN.

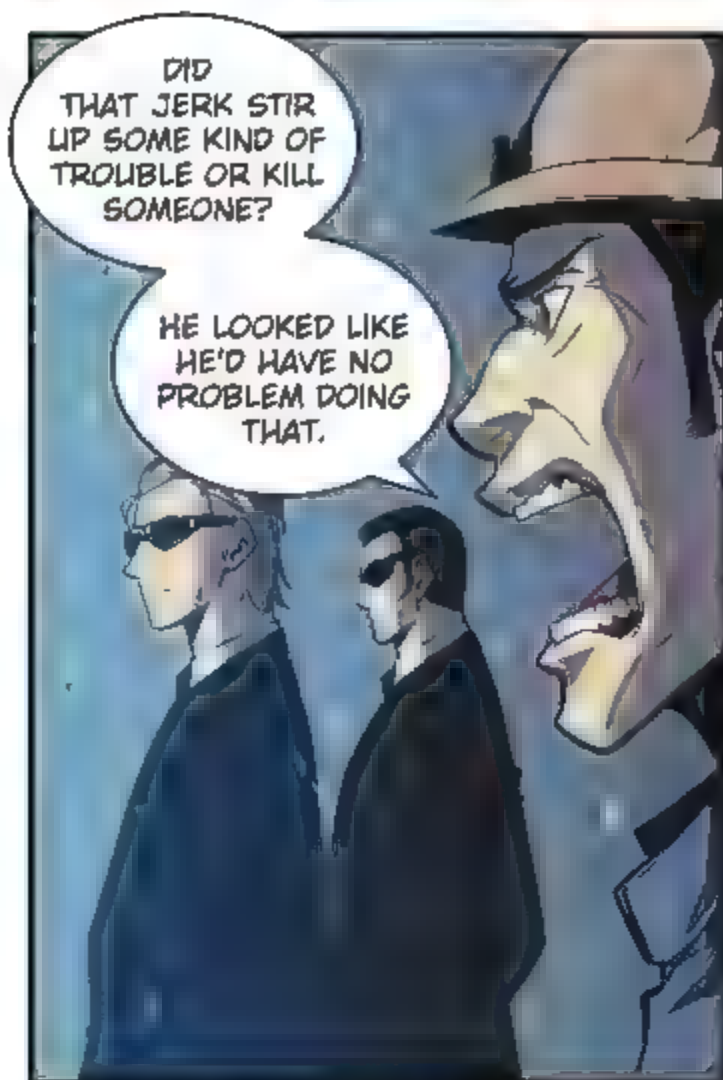
BUT I WONDER
HOW FAR YOUR LITTLE
PARTY TRICKS WILL
GET YOU?!





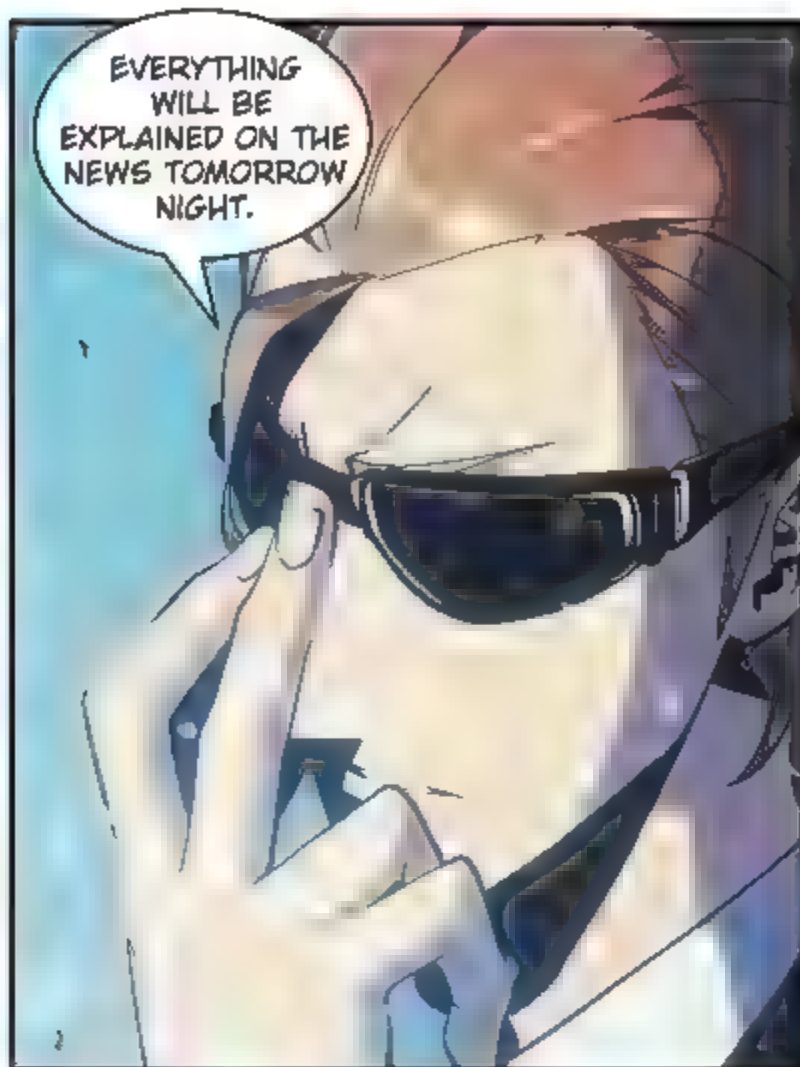






DID
THAT JERK STIR
UP SOME KIND OF
TROUBLE OR KILL
SOMEONE?

HE LOOKED LIKE
HE'D HAVE NO
PROBLEM DOING
THAT.



EVERYTHING
WILL BE
EXPLAINED ON THE
NEWS TOMORROW
NIGHT.

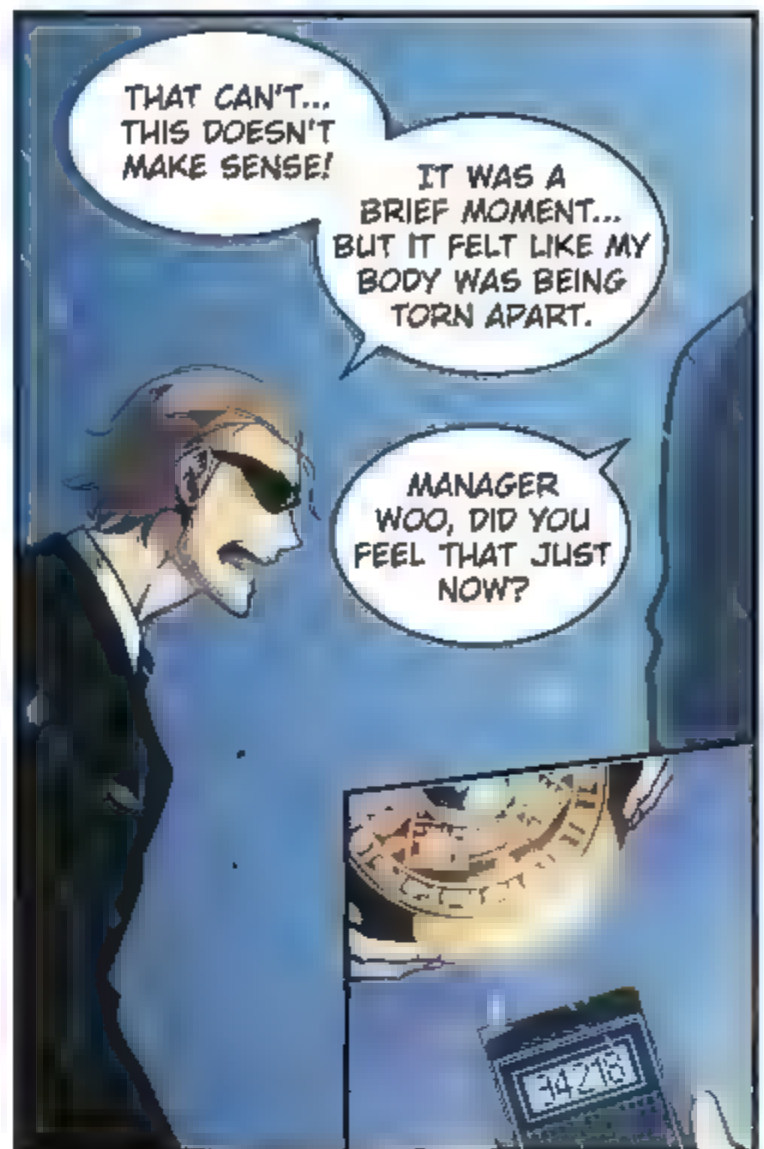


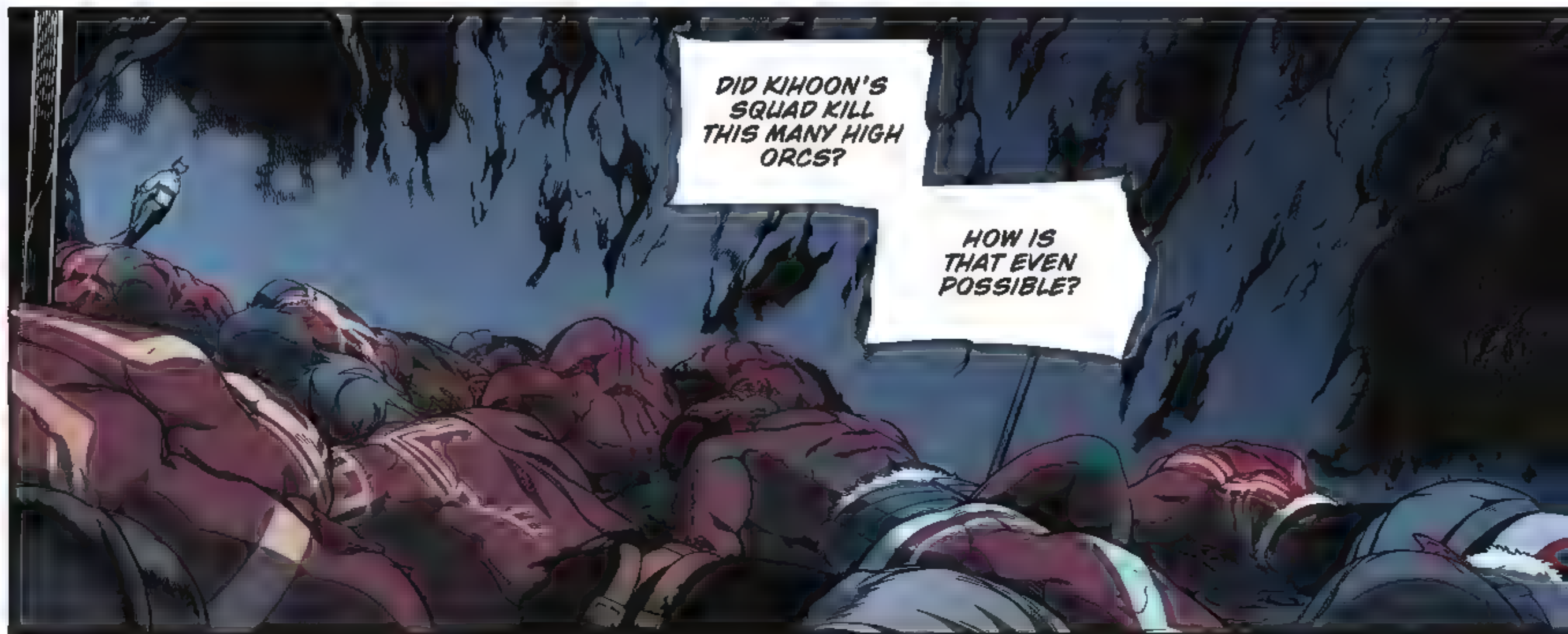
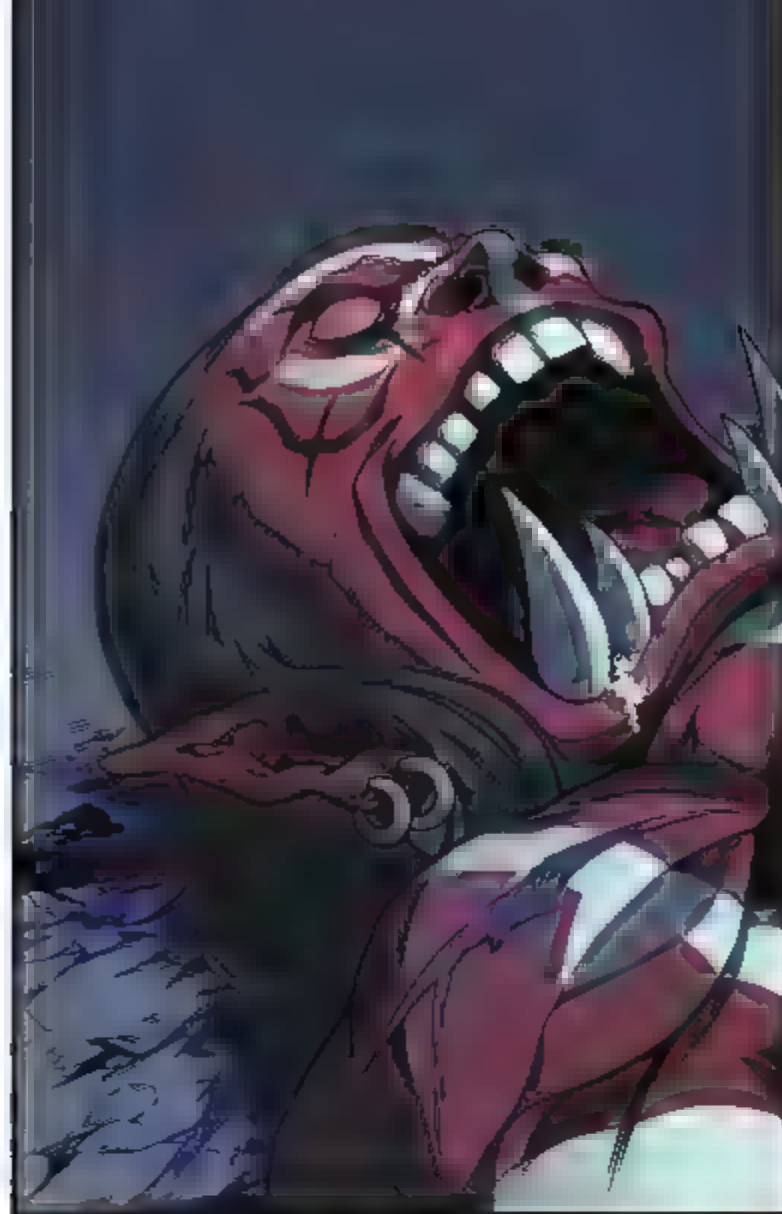
SEE! DIDN'T I
TELL YOU THAT
THE DUDE WAS
SUSPICIOUS?

HE DIDN'T
LOOK IT,
THOUGH...

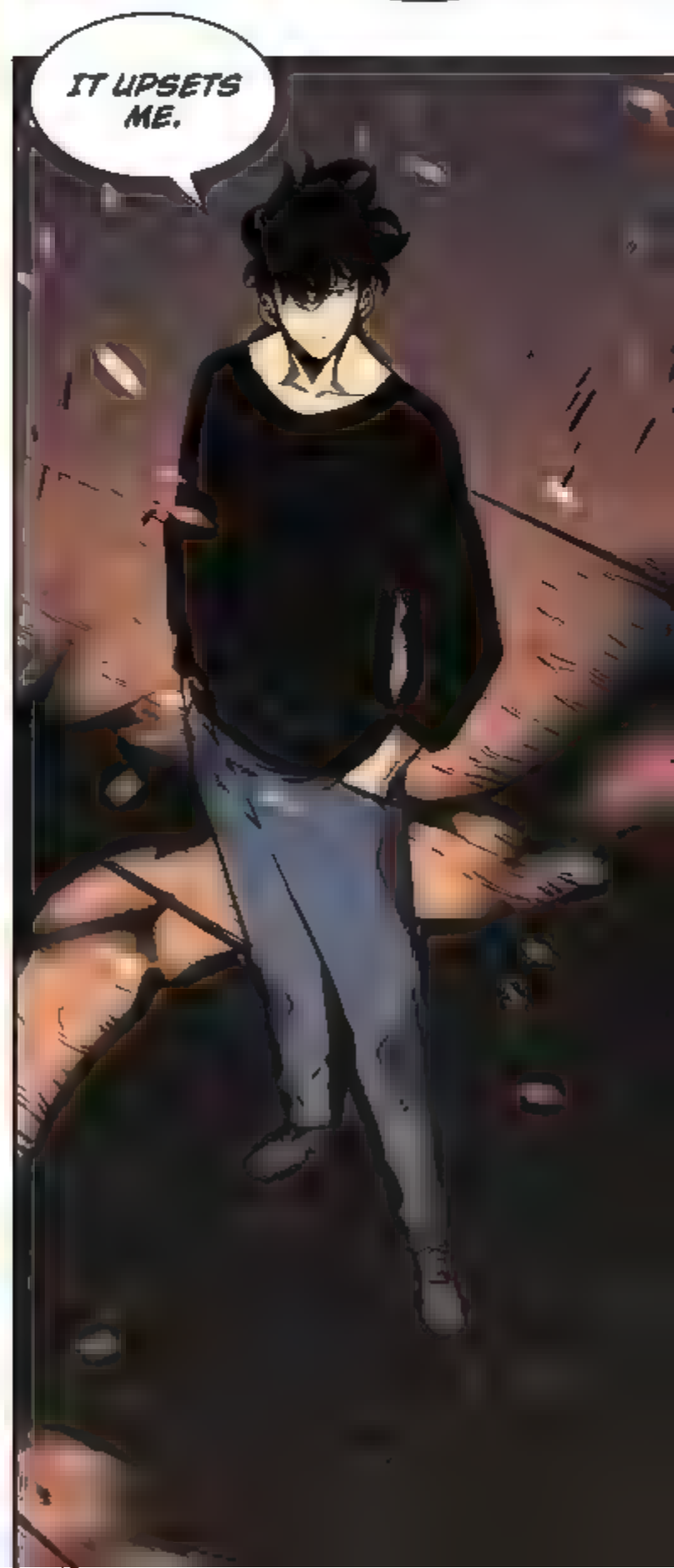
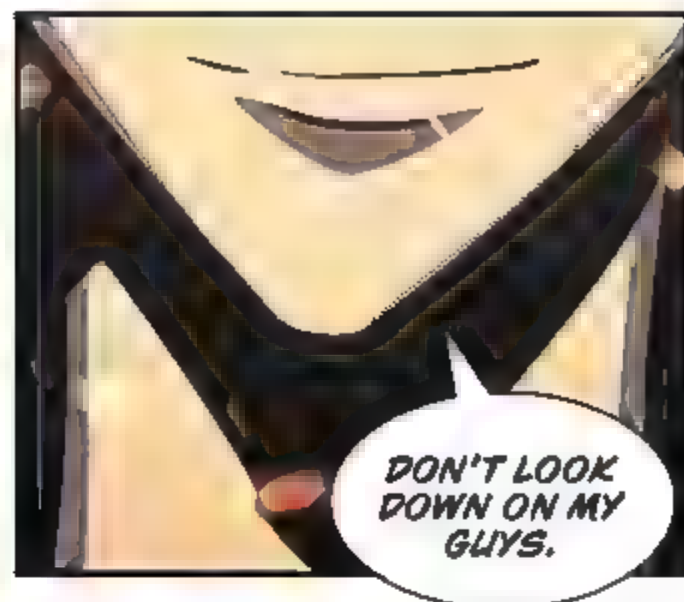
YEAH, HE
WAS A GOOD
WORKER
TOO.





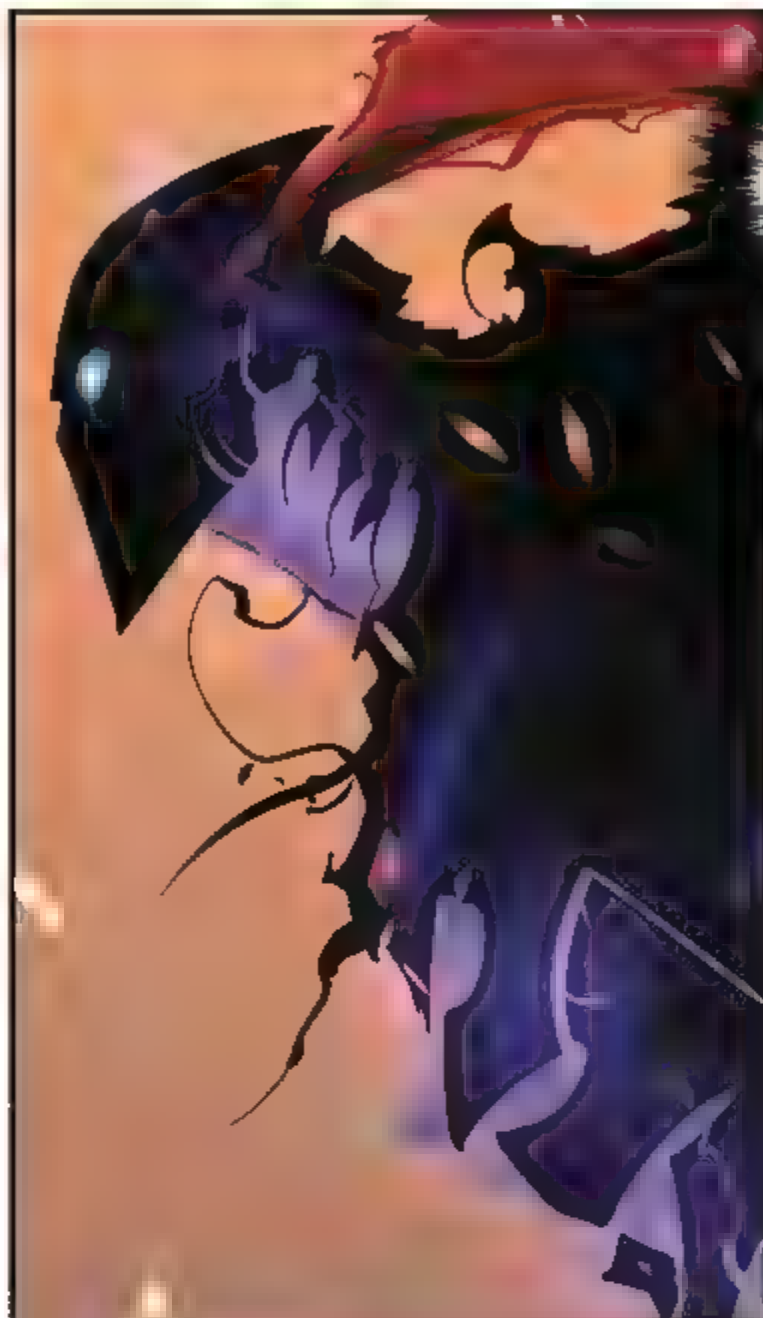






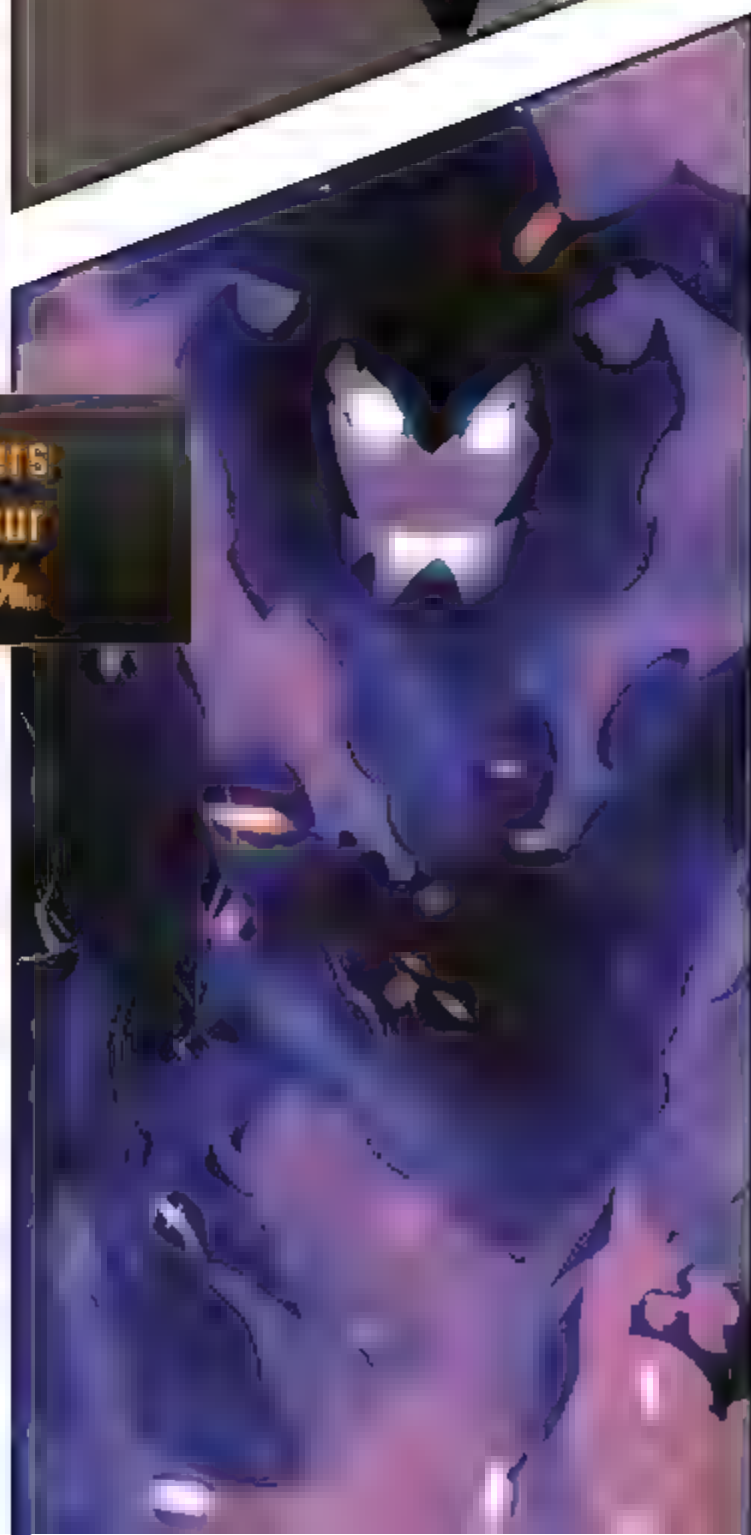
Skill: Monarch's Domain
has been activated.

Off

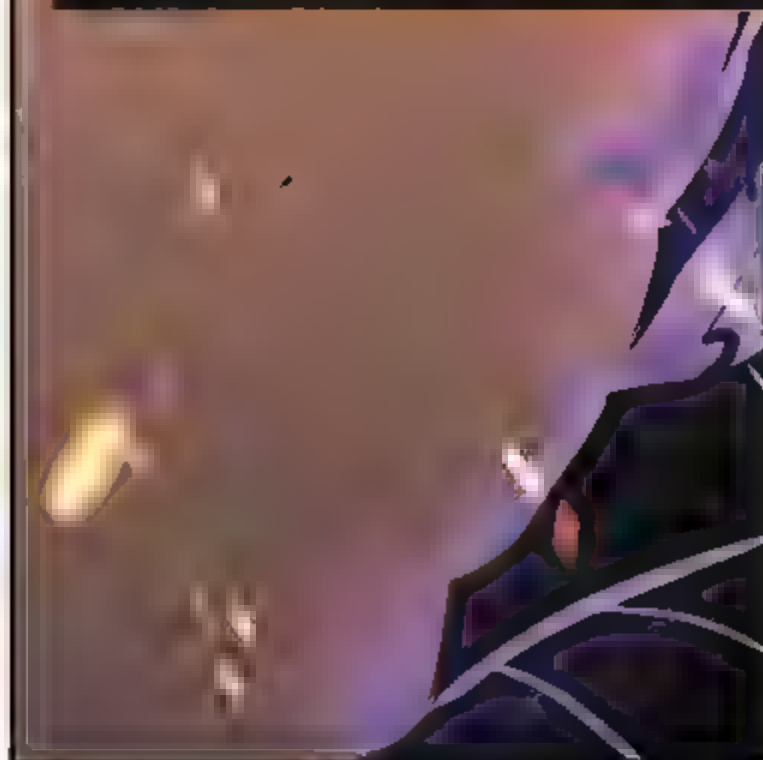


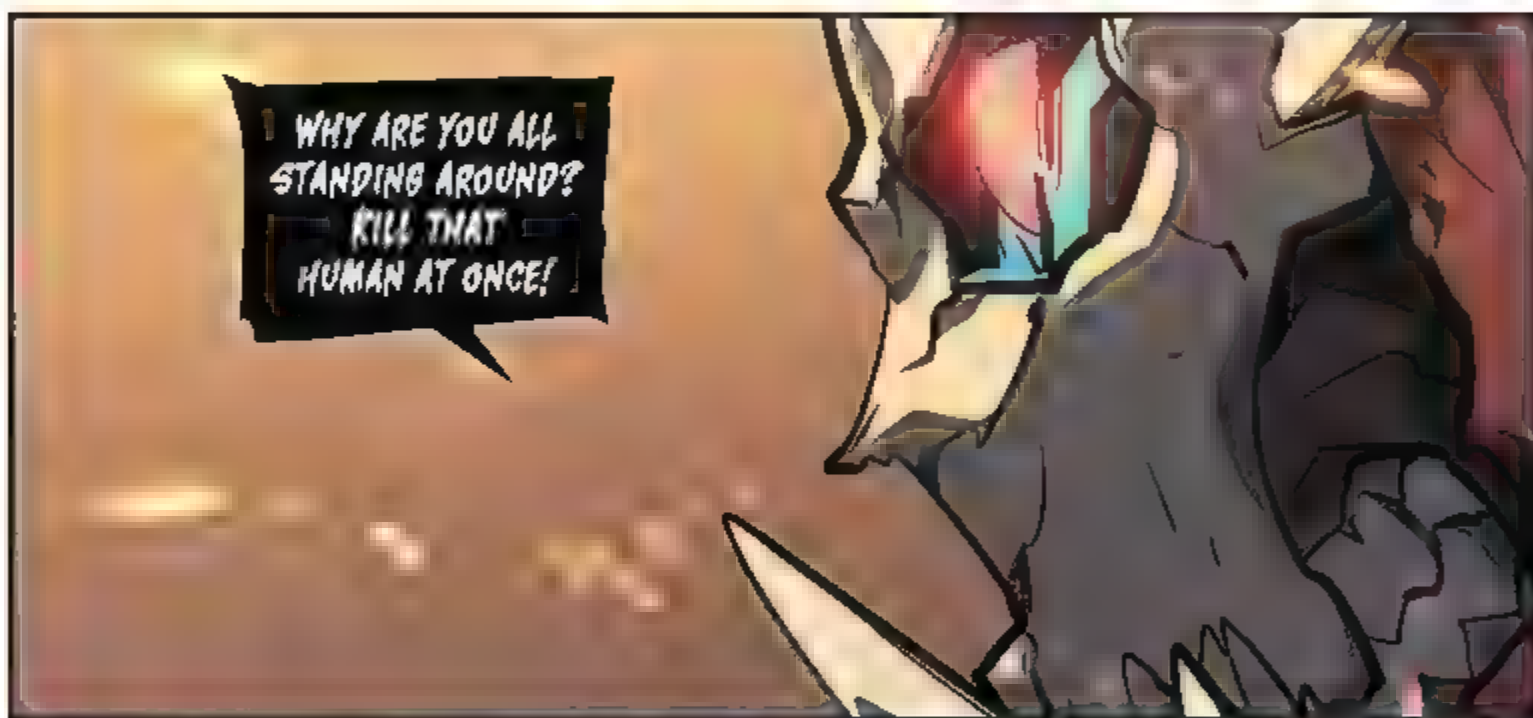
MONARCH'S
DOMAIN IS A JOB-
EXCLUSIVE SKILL
I ACQUIRED AFTER
REACHING LEVEL 70
IN THE DEMON'S
CASTLE.

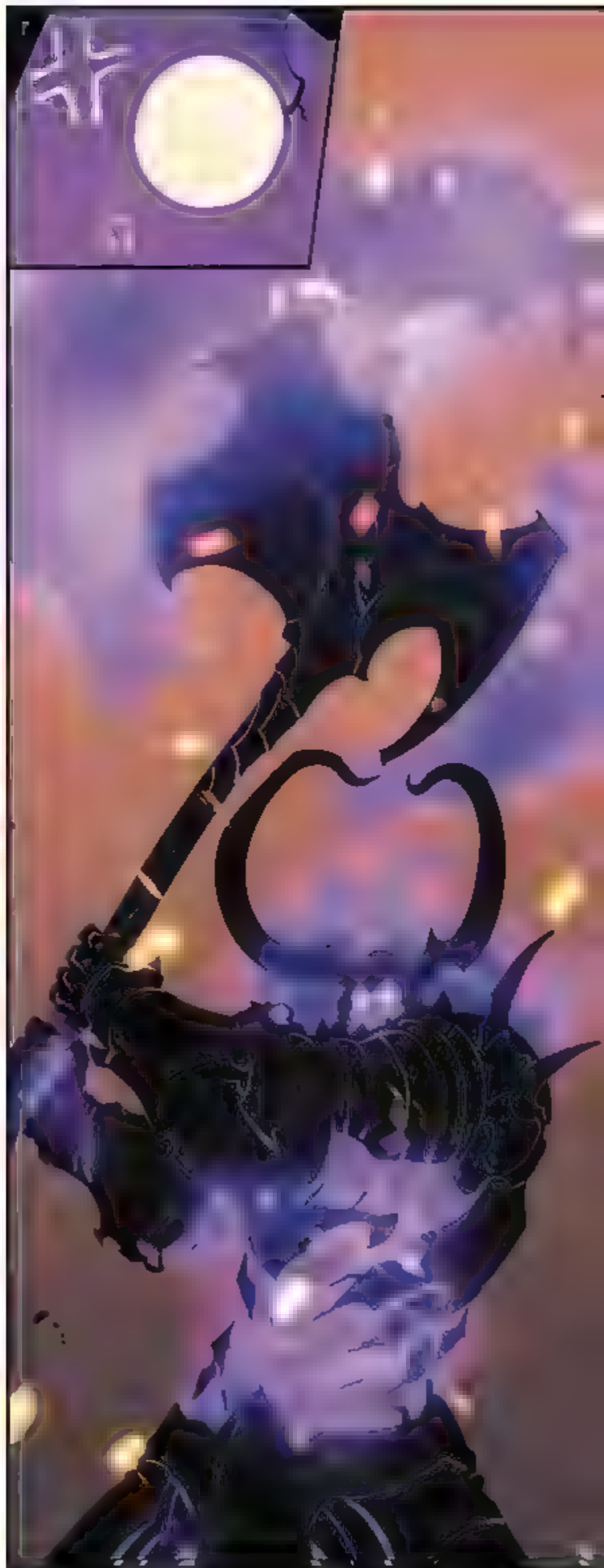
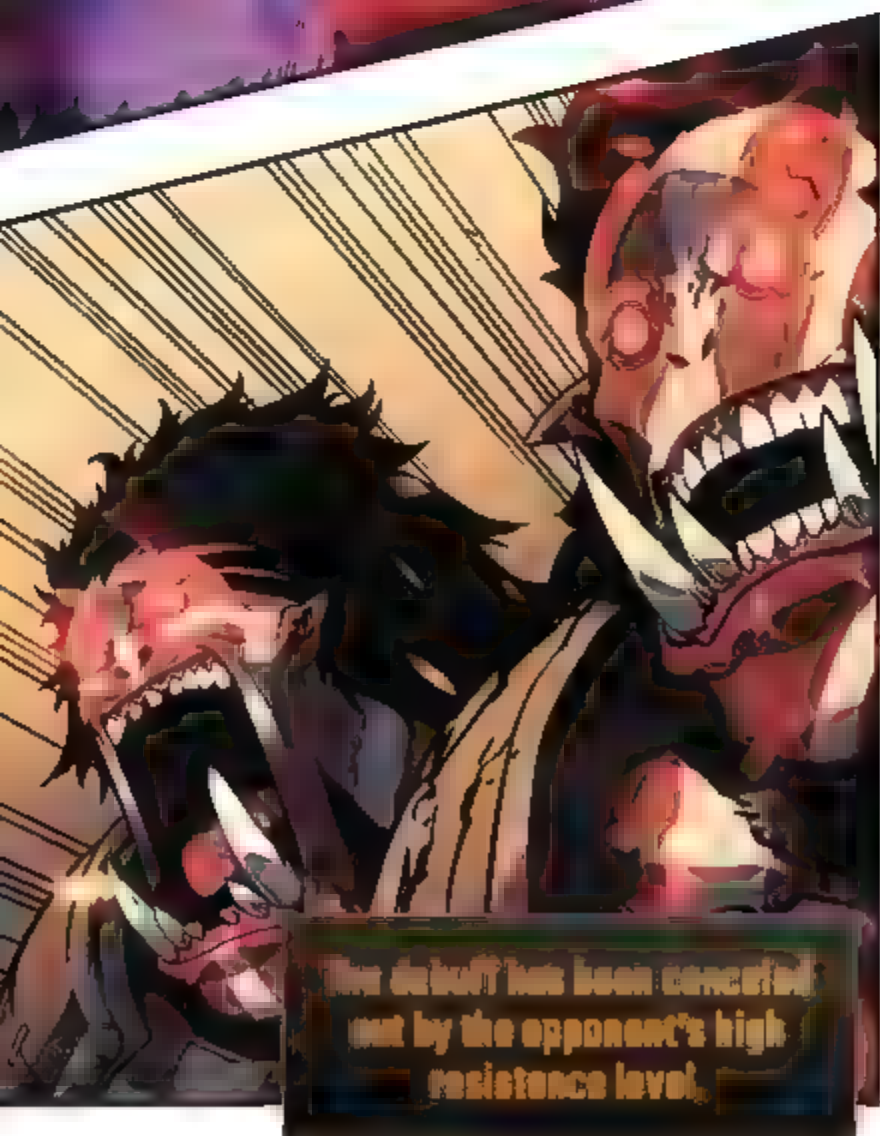
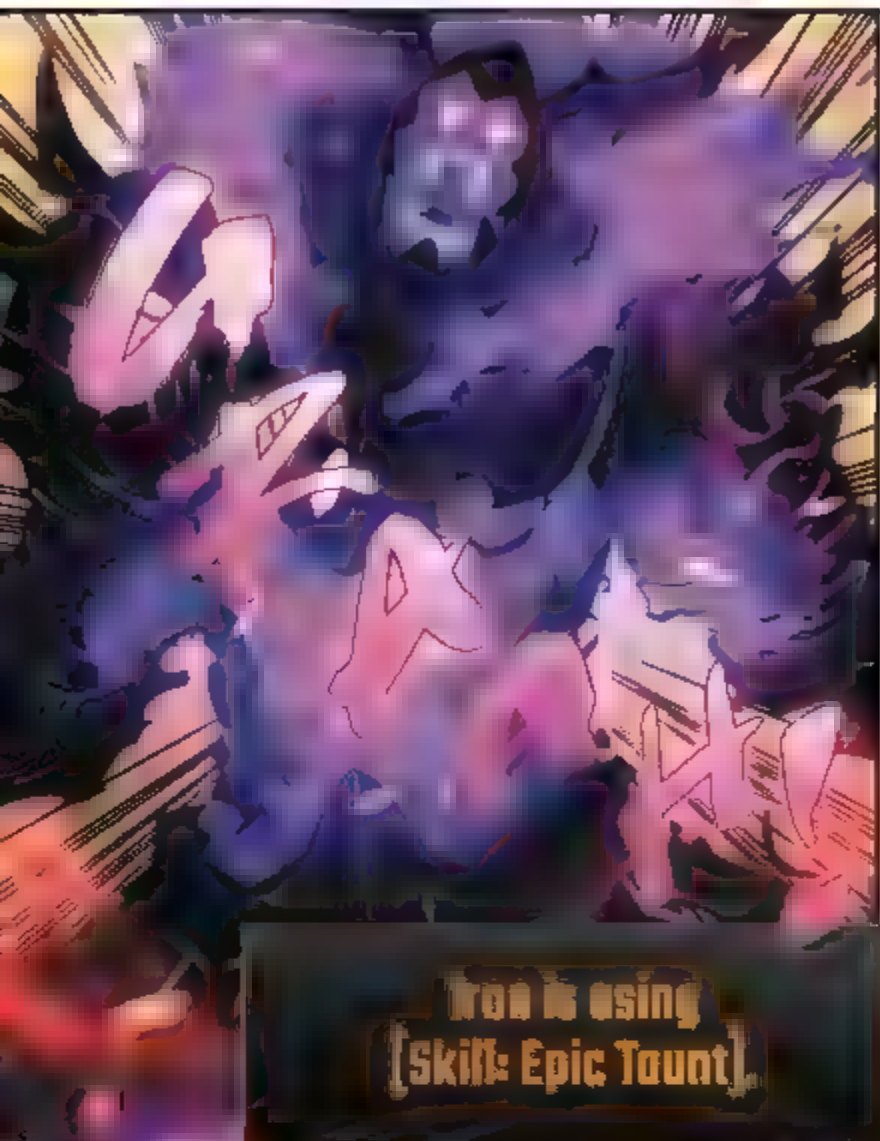
MY SHADOW
SOLDIERS' POWER
HAS GOTTEN
STRONGER
EVER SINCE.



Abilities of all shadow soldiers
fighting on the surface of your
shadow will increase by 50%.



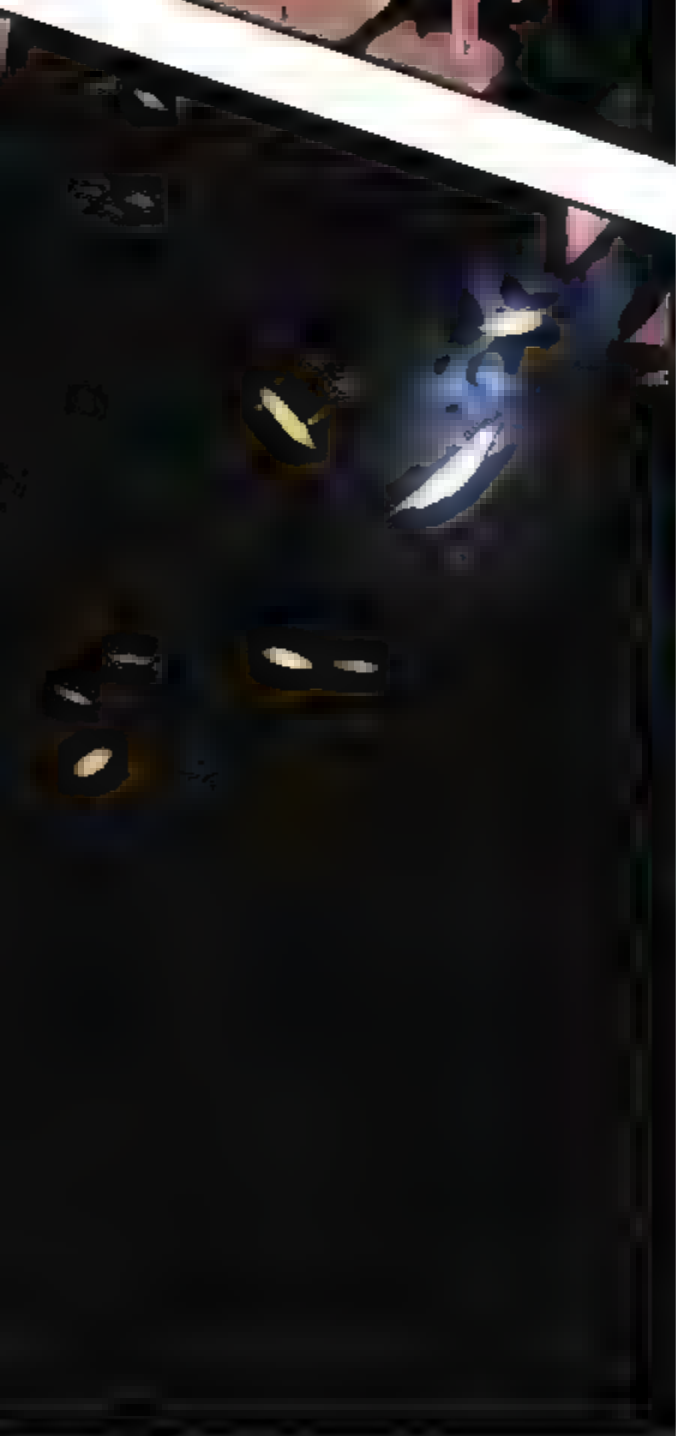


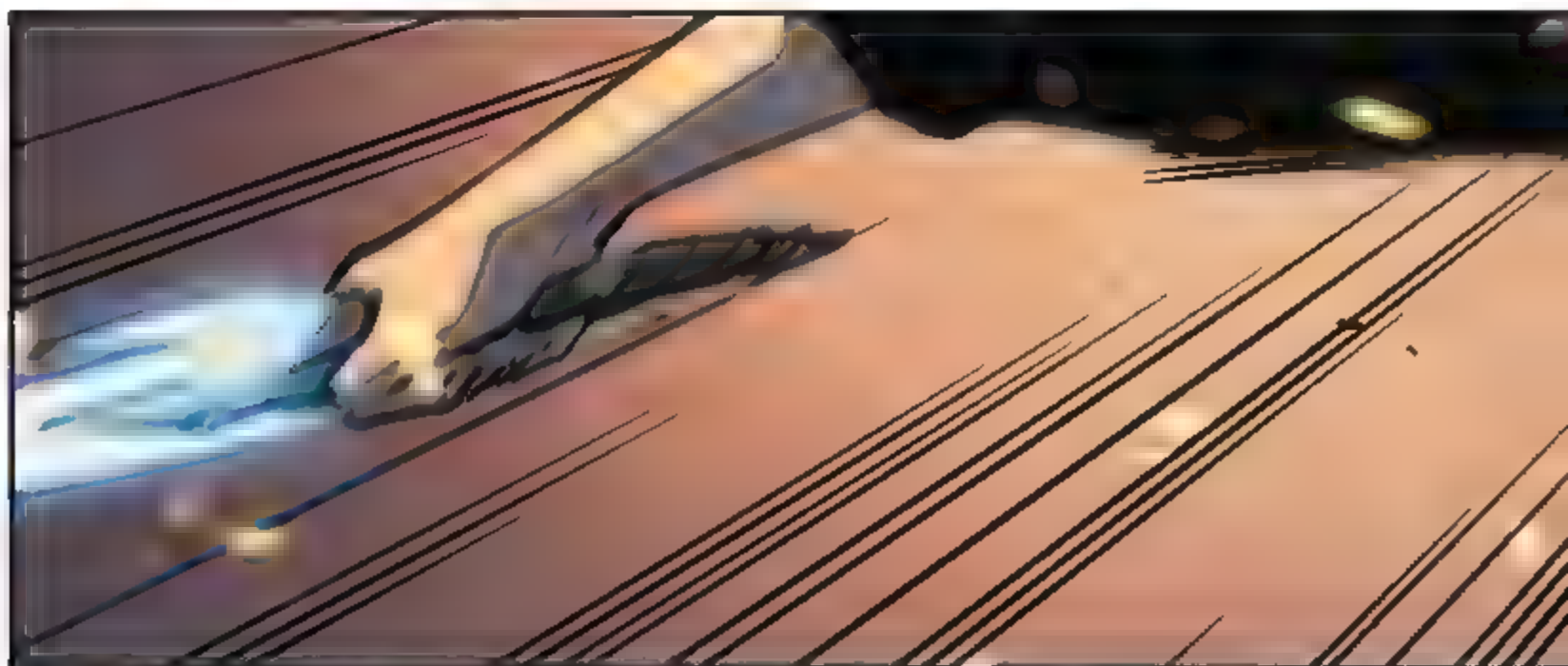
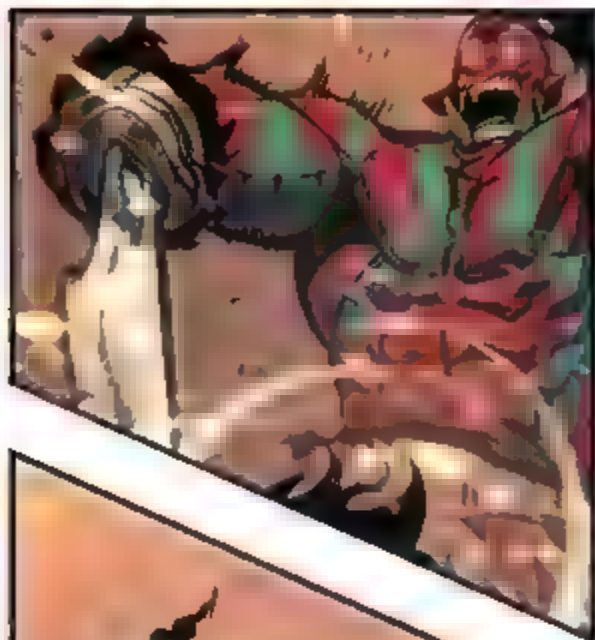














WHY WAS
A MAN WITH SUCH
ABILITIES WORKING
AS A LUGGAGE
CARRIER...?

OUTSIDE OF
IGRIS, IRON, AND
TANK, MY SHADOW
SOLDIERS ARE
SIMILAR TO B-RANK
HUNTERS.

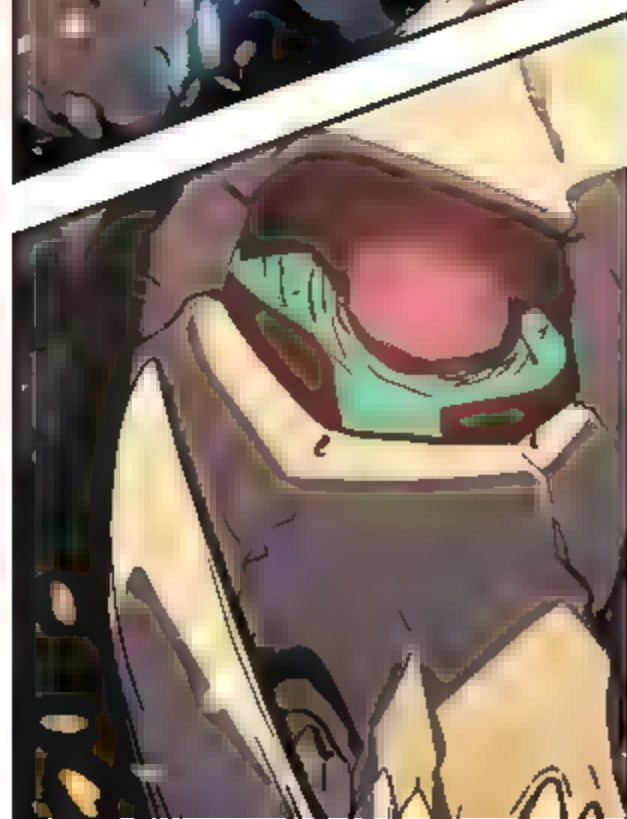
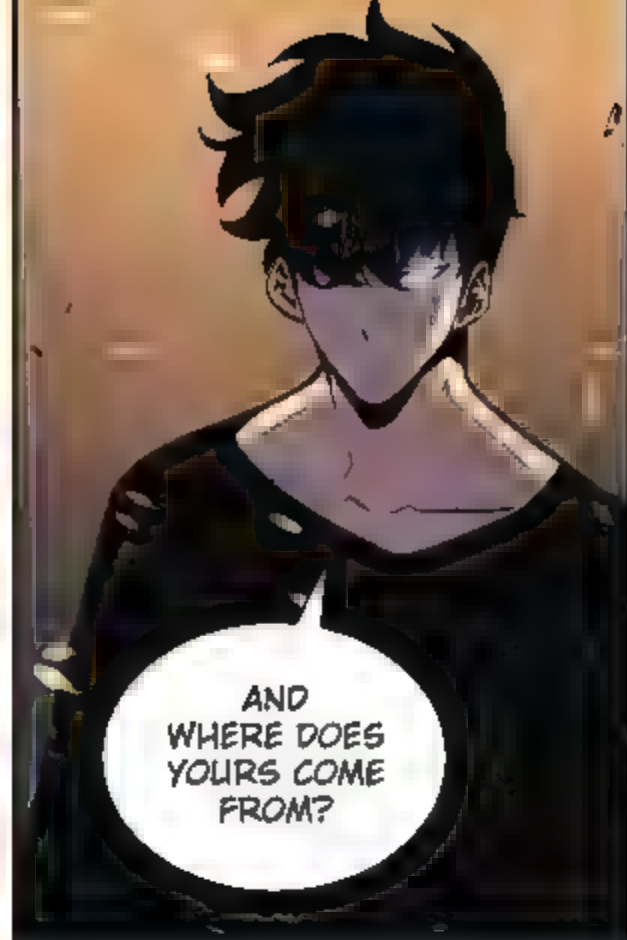
THEY HAVE TO
RE-SPAWN THREE
TO FOUR TIMES
JUST TO KILL ONE
HIGH ORC.



SINCE THE
NUMBER OF HIGH
ORCS IS THREE TIMES
THAT OF MY SOLDIERS,
I'LL HAVE TO THIN THE
ENEMY'S NUMBERS AS
MUCH AS I CAN!

SONG OF
DRAGON FIRE!

WHAT?! THE
SHADOW
SOLDIERS ARE...!



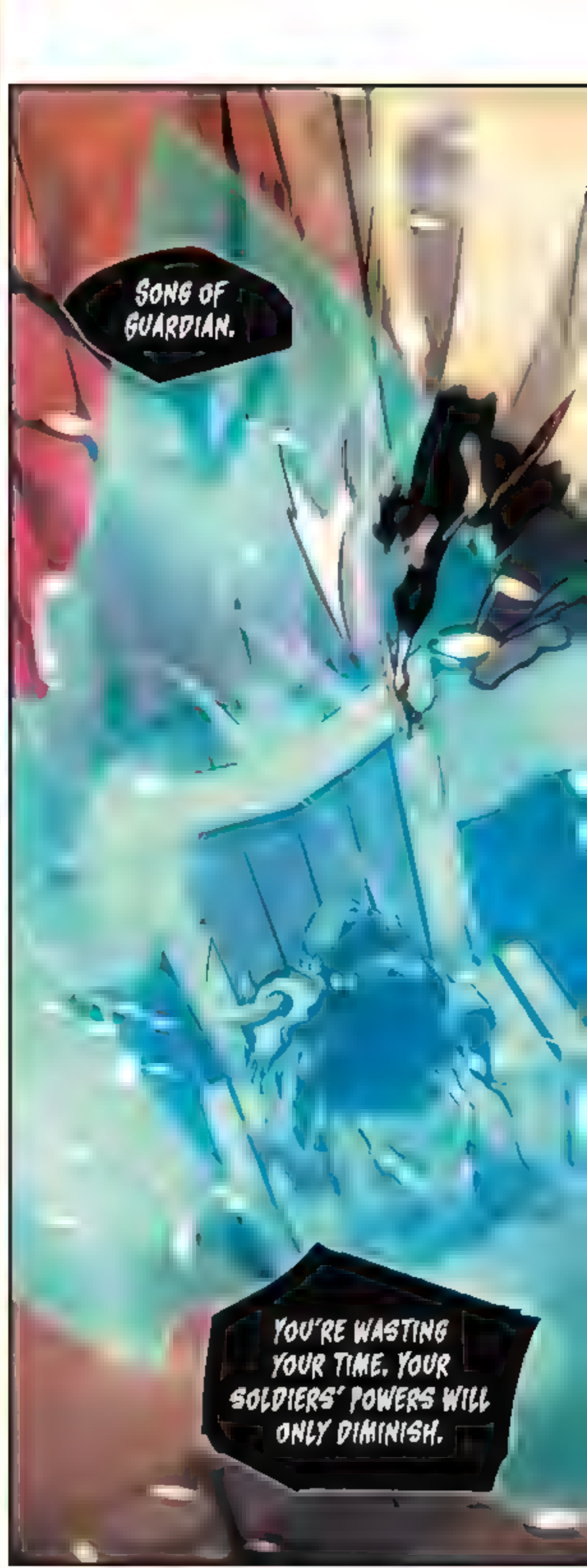


YOU USE
UP YOUR MANA AS
YOUR SOLDIERS
REGENERATE.

IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE YOU RUN
OUT.

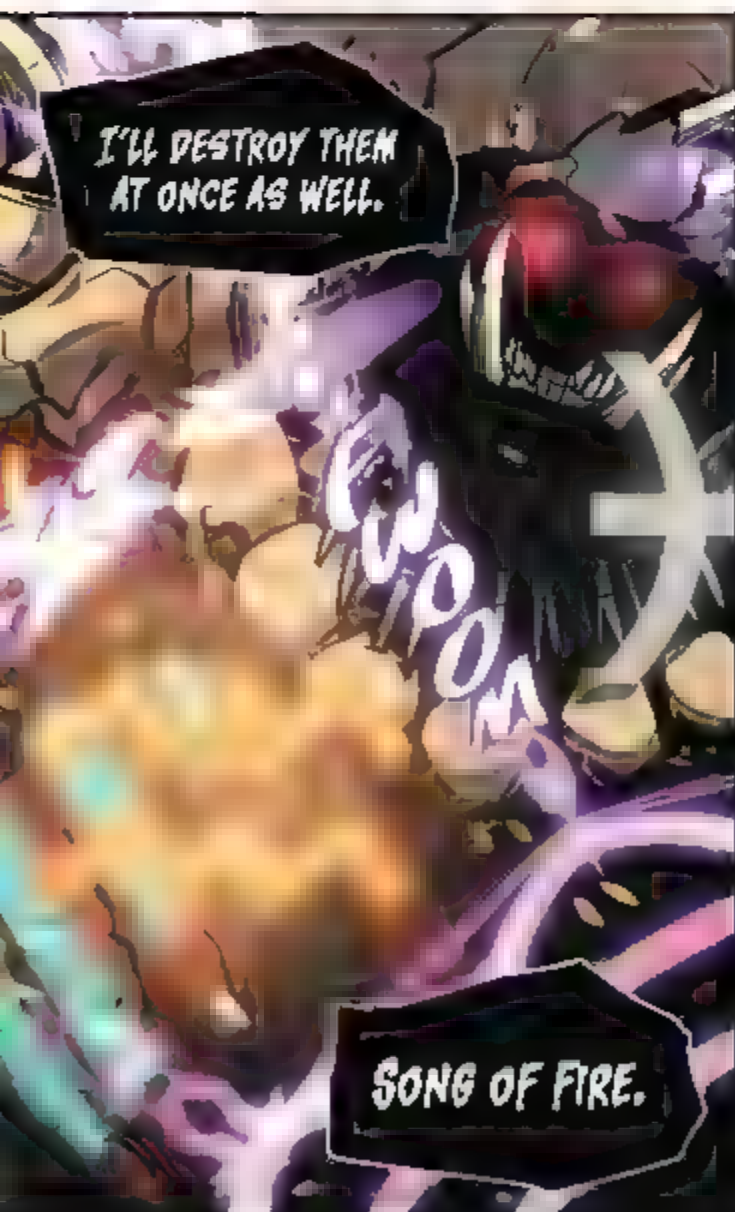
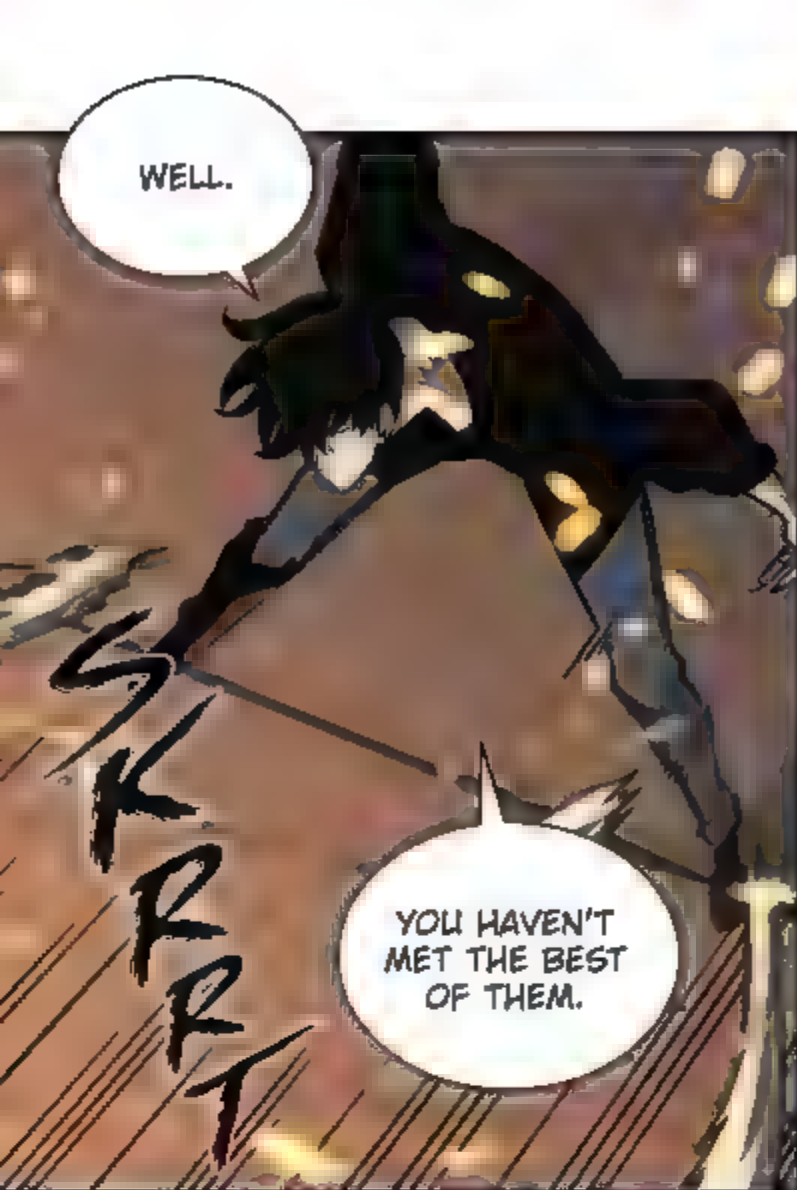


I'LL KILL YOU
BEFORE THAT
HAPPENS.



SONG OF
GUARDIAN.

YOU'RE WASTING
YOUR TIME. YOUR
SOLDIERS' POWERS WILL
ONLY DIMINISH.





THAT
MAGIC BEAST
IS STRONGER
THAN VULCAN OR
METUS.

METUS
WAS ABLE TO
CONTROL SEVERAL
THOUSAND UNDEAD
BUT WAS WEAK ON
DEFENSE.

THIS
BASTARD IS
EXCELLENT ON
DEFENSE, AND
HIS SPELLS ARE
STRONG TOO.

MY SOLDIERS ARE
GETTING CREAMED
IN HAND-TO-HAND
COMBAT AGAINST ALL
THESE HIGH ORCS.



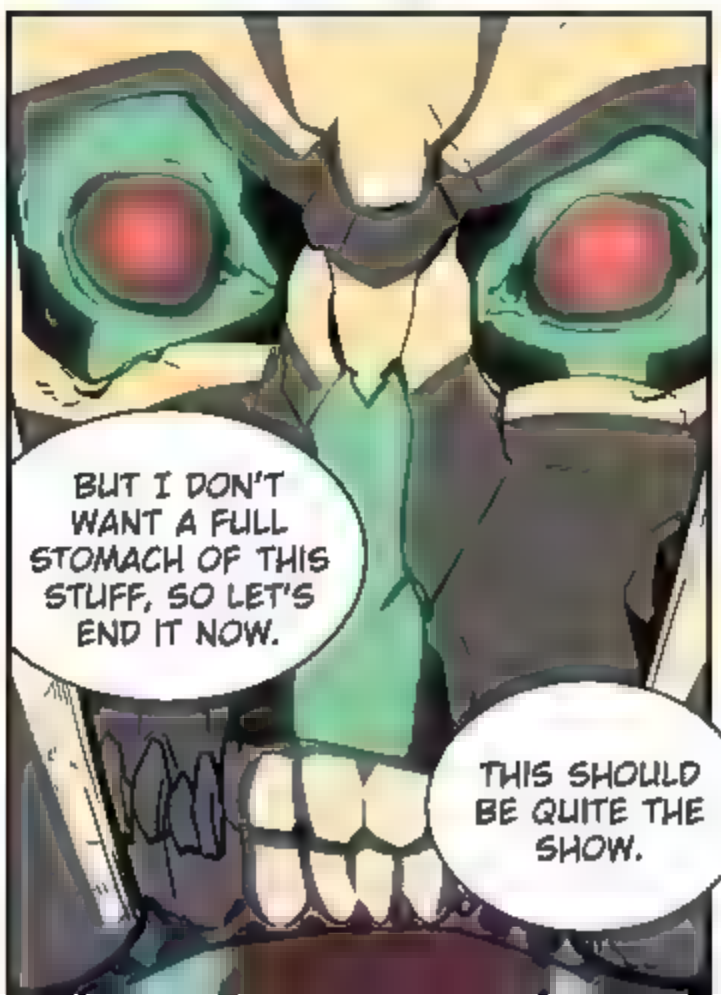
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM
THE JOB CHANGE QUEST.

INVENTORY.



I CAN
USE POTIONS
HERE...

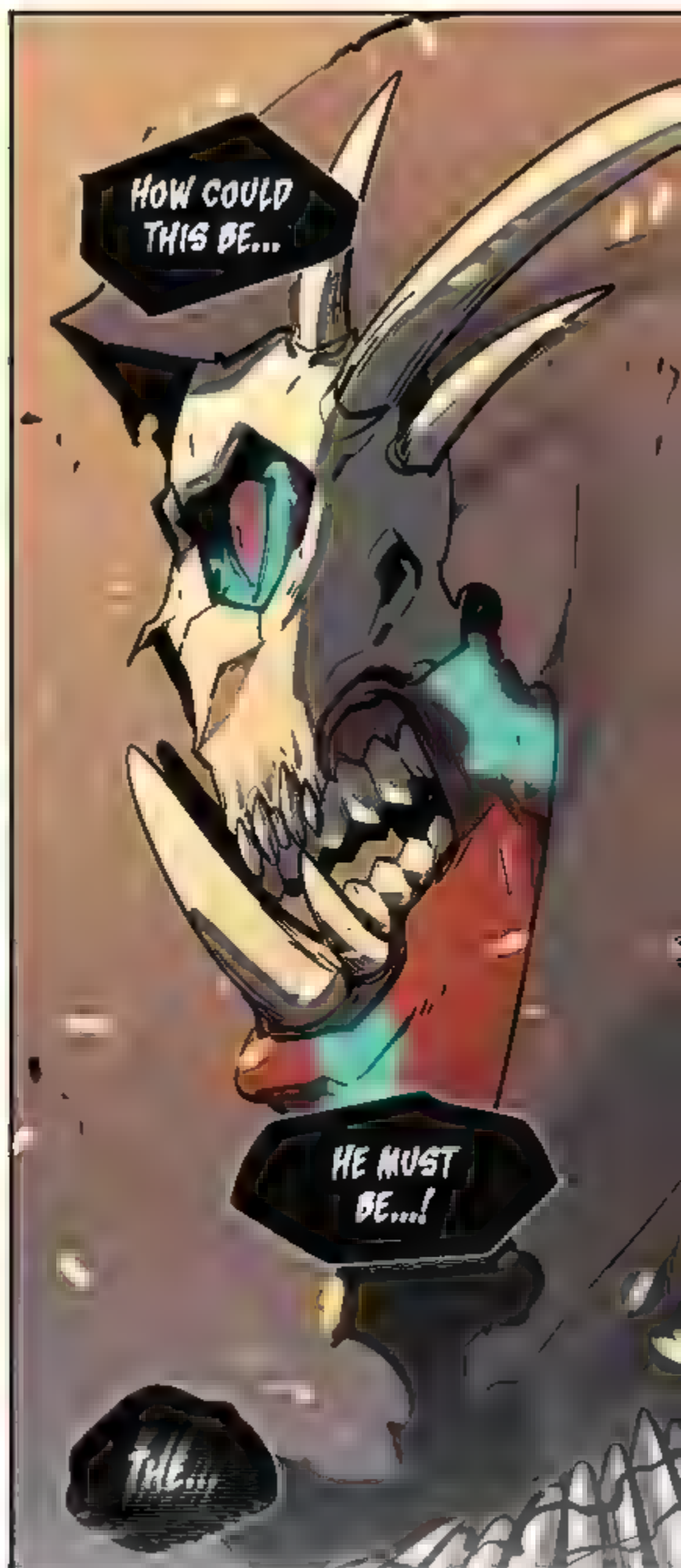
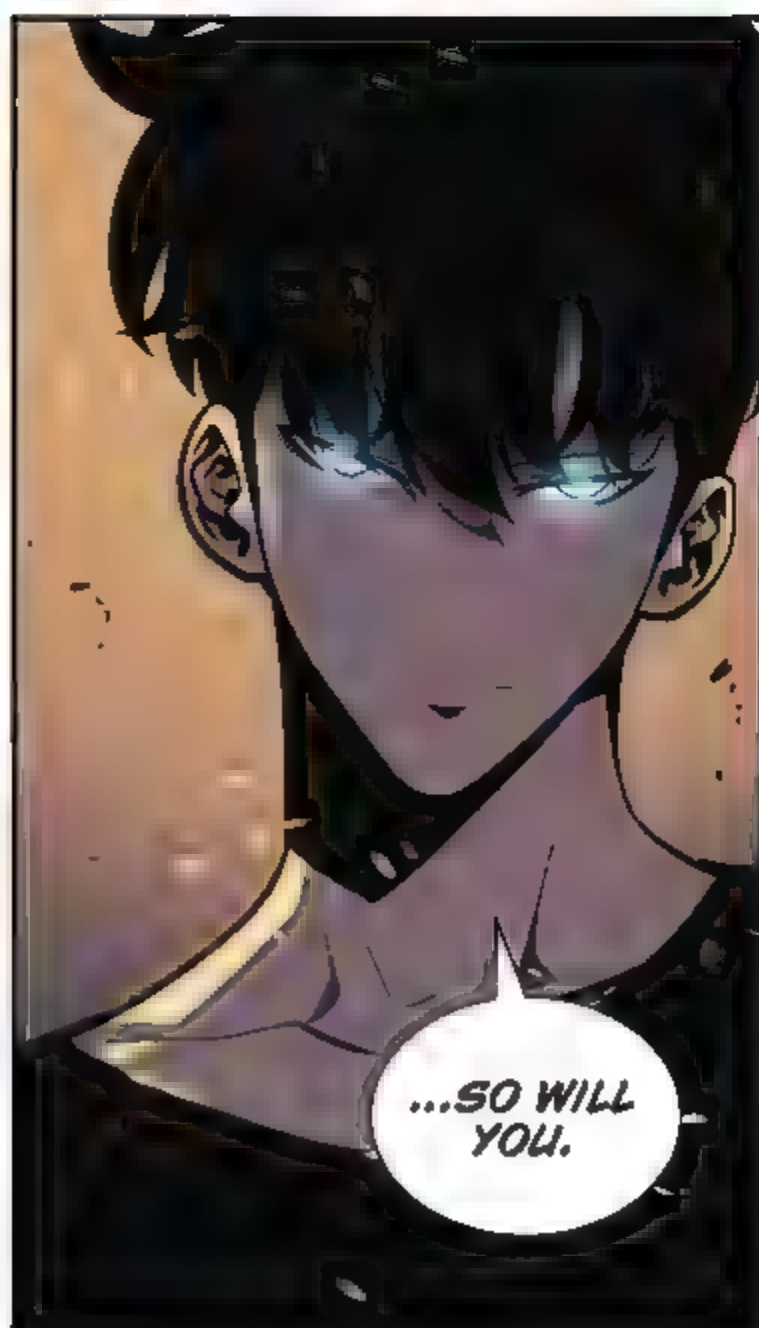
...I CAN
REPLENISH
MANA ANY
TIME.

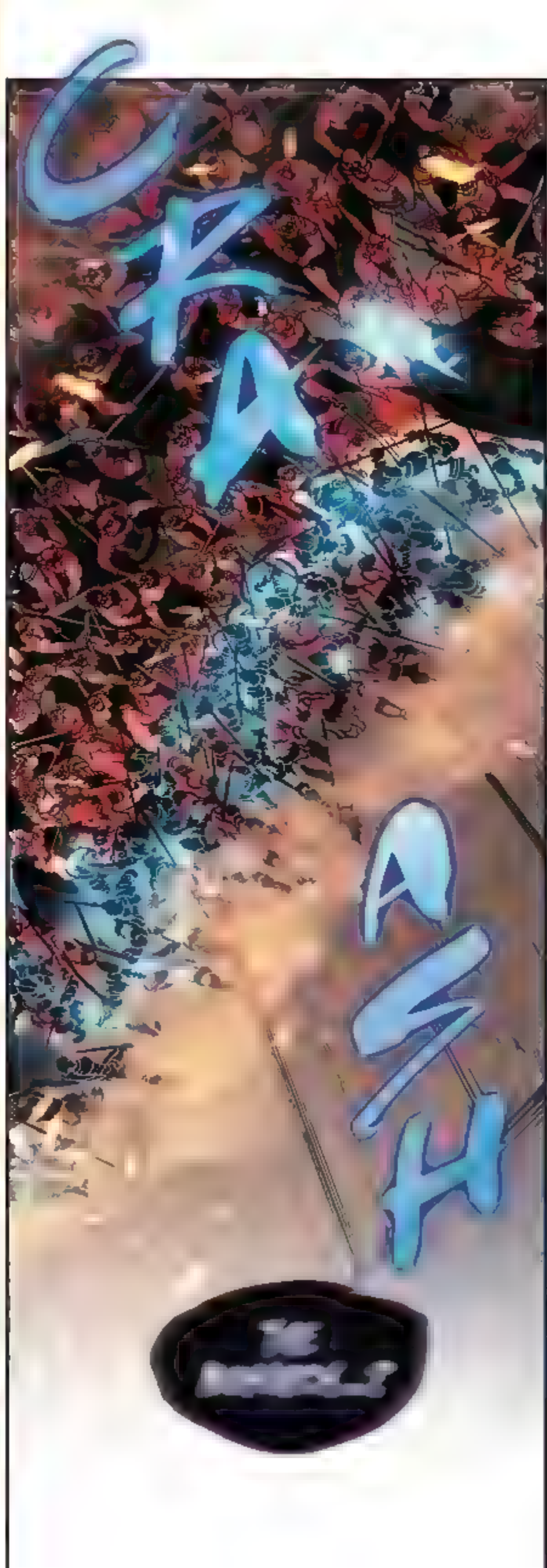
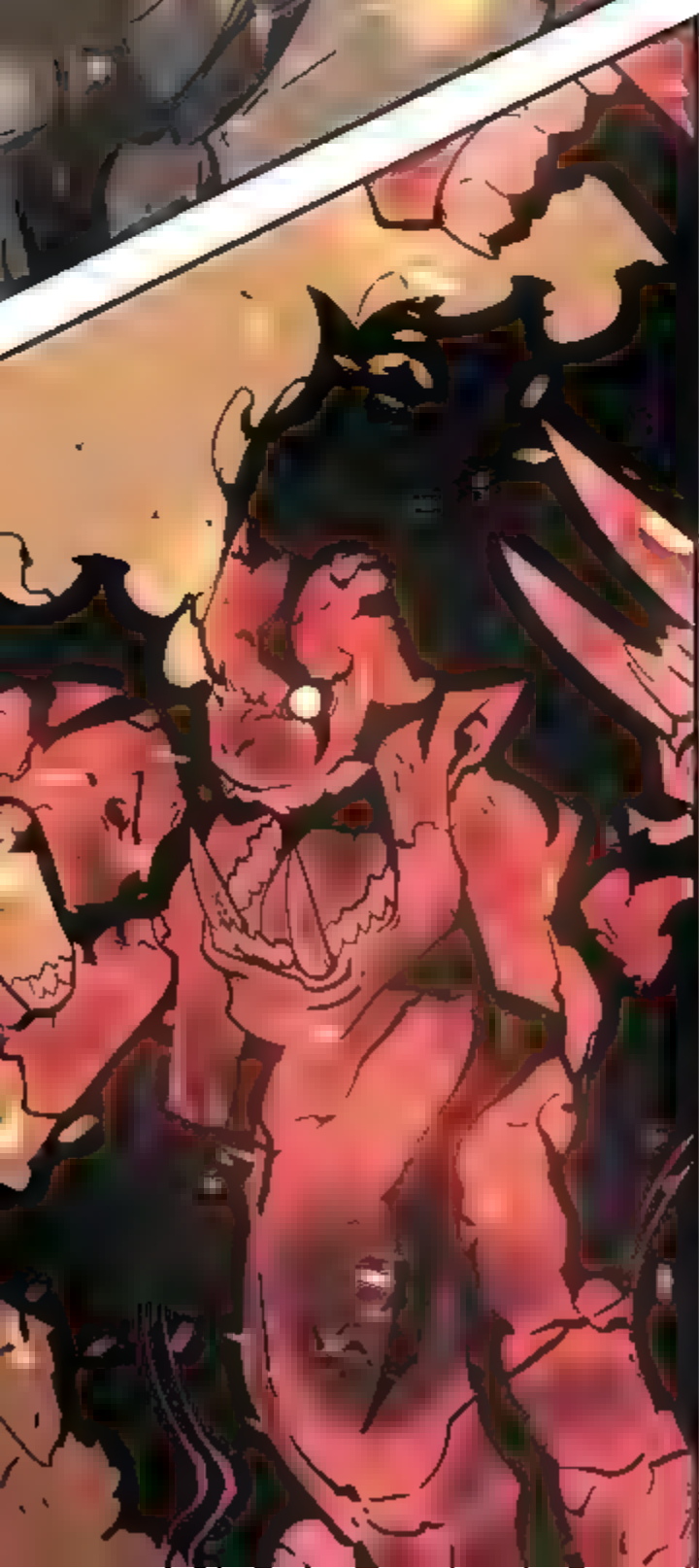


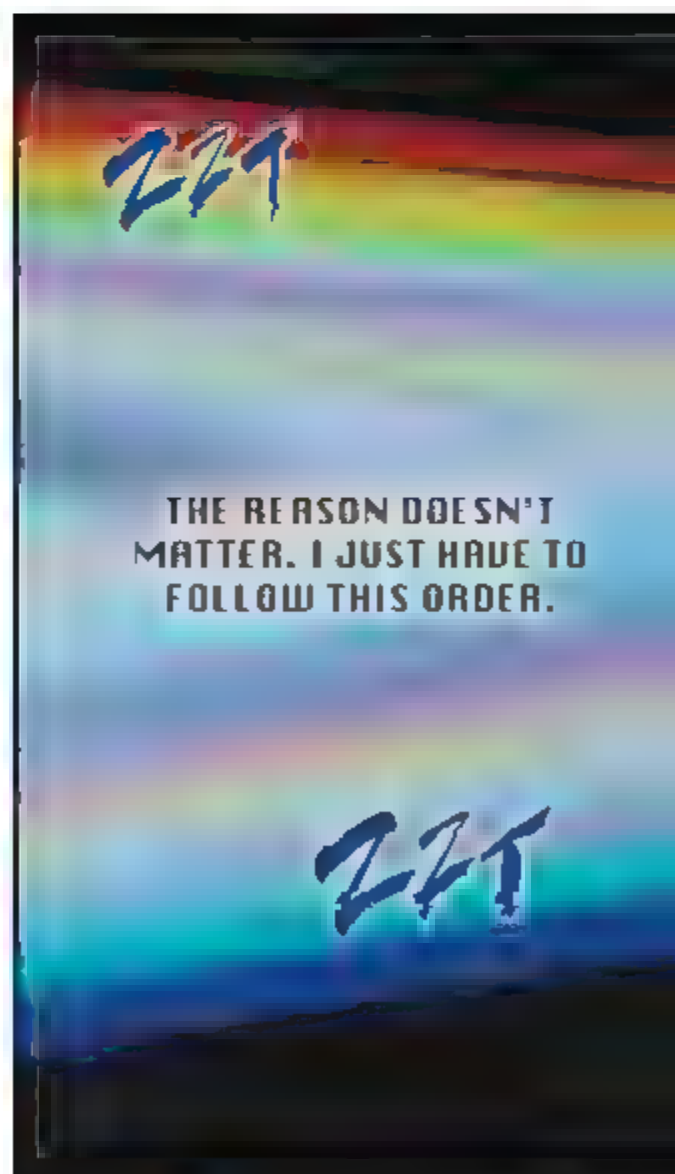
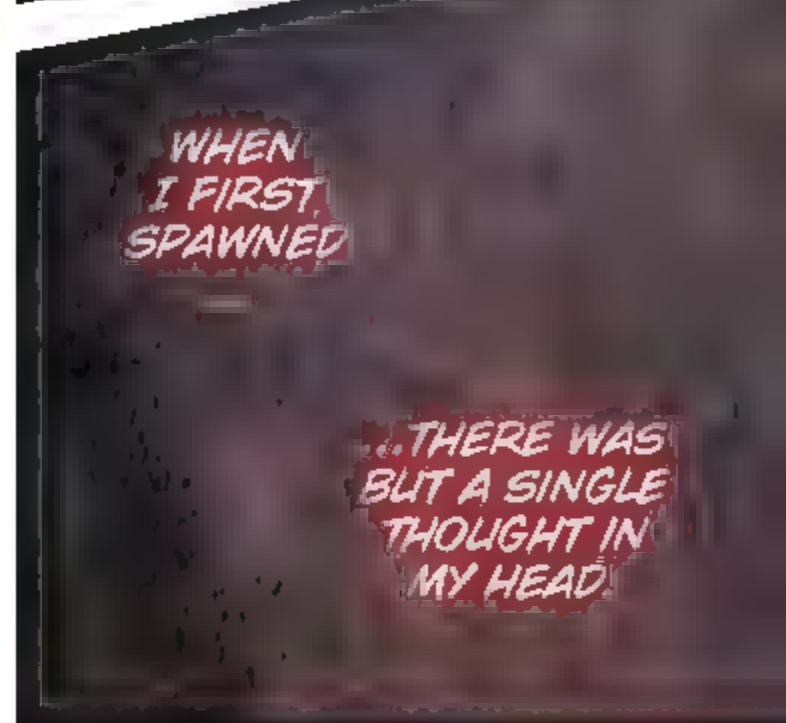
BUT I DON'T
WANT A FULL
STOMACH OF THIS
STUFF, SO LET'S
END IT NOW.

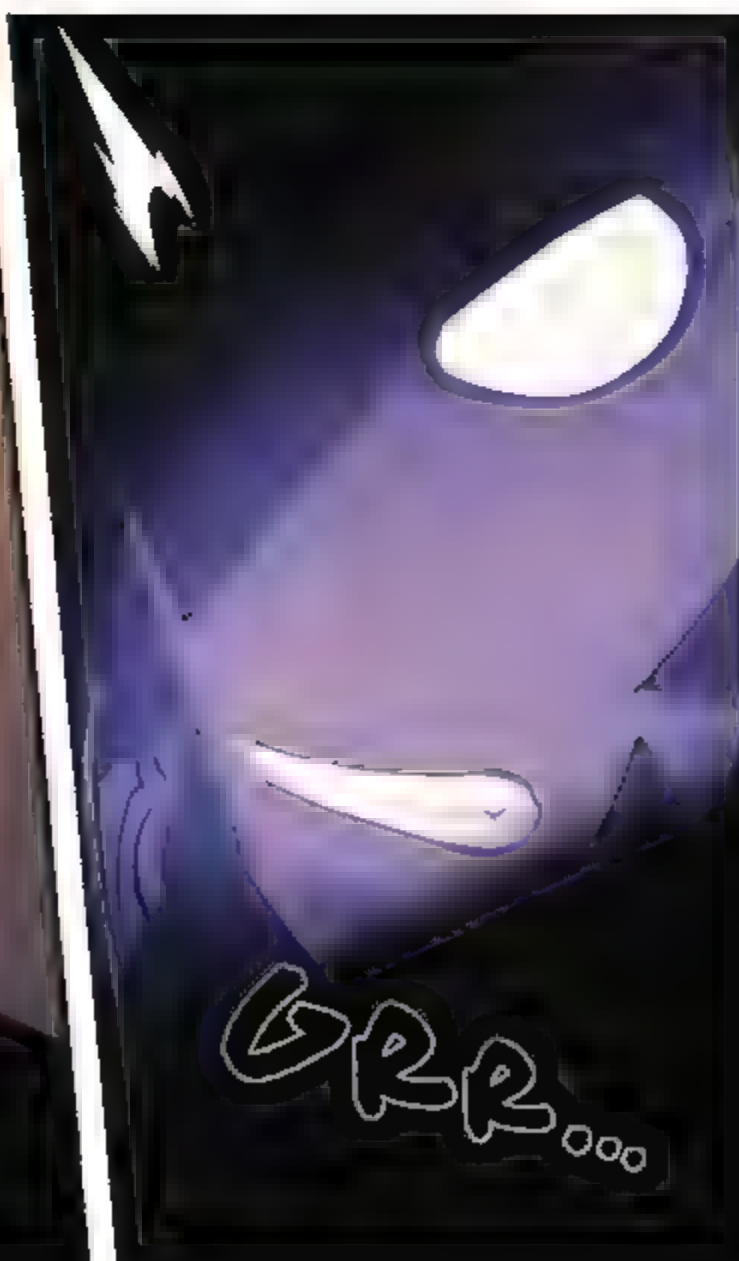
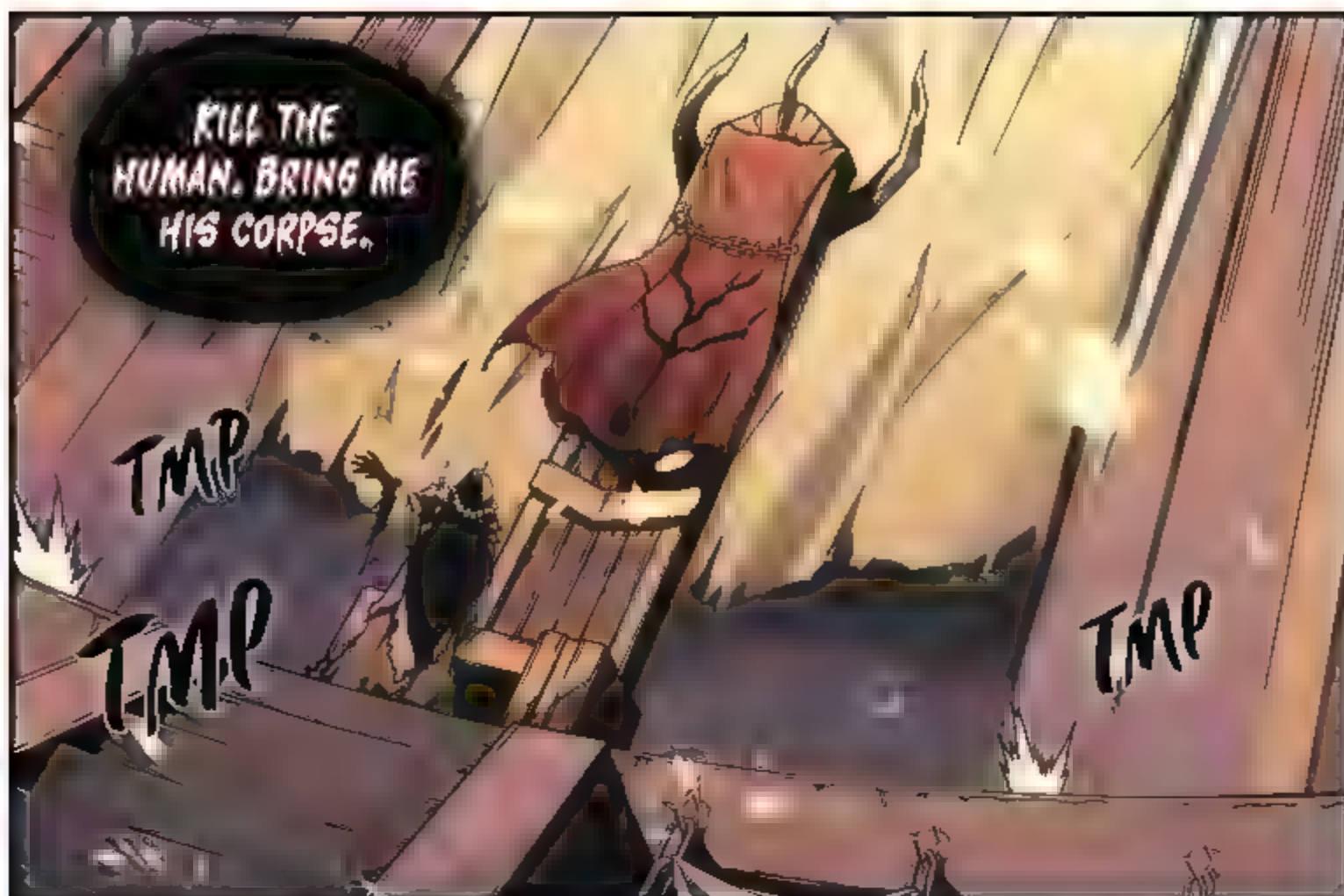
THIS SHOULD
BE QUITE THE
SHOW.

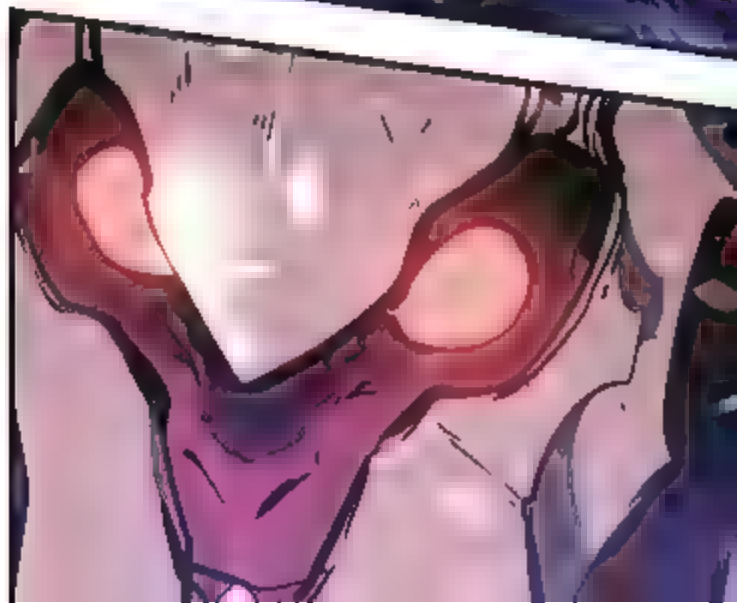
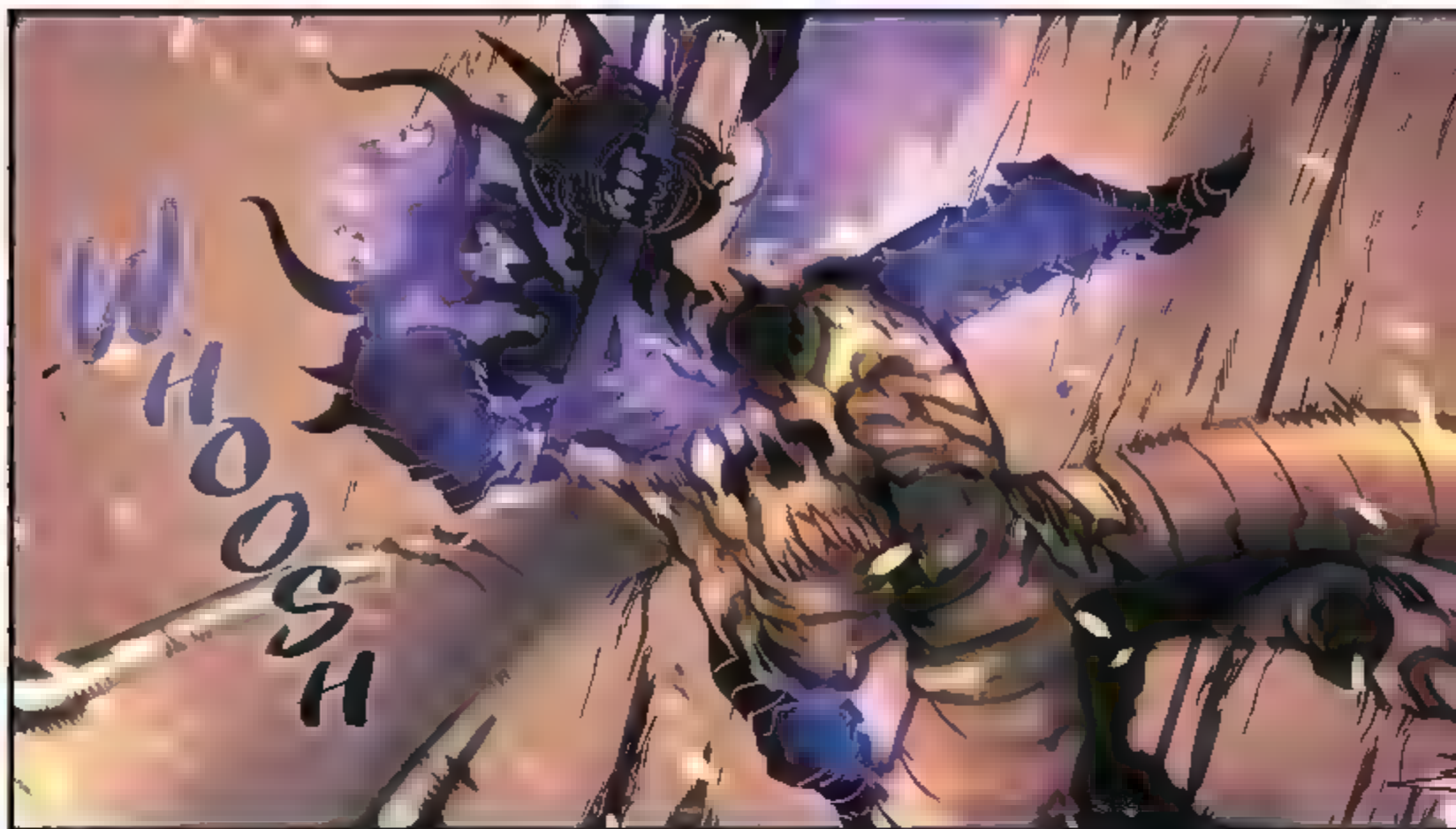


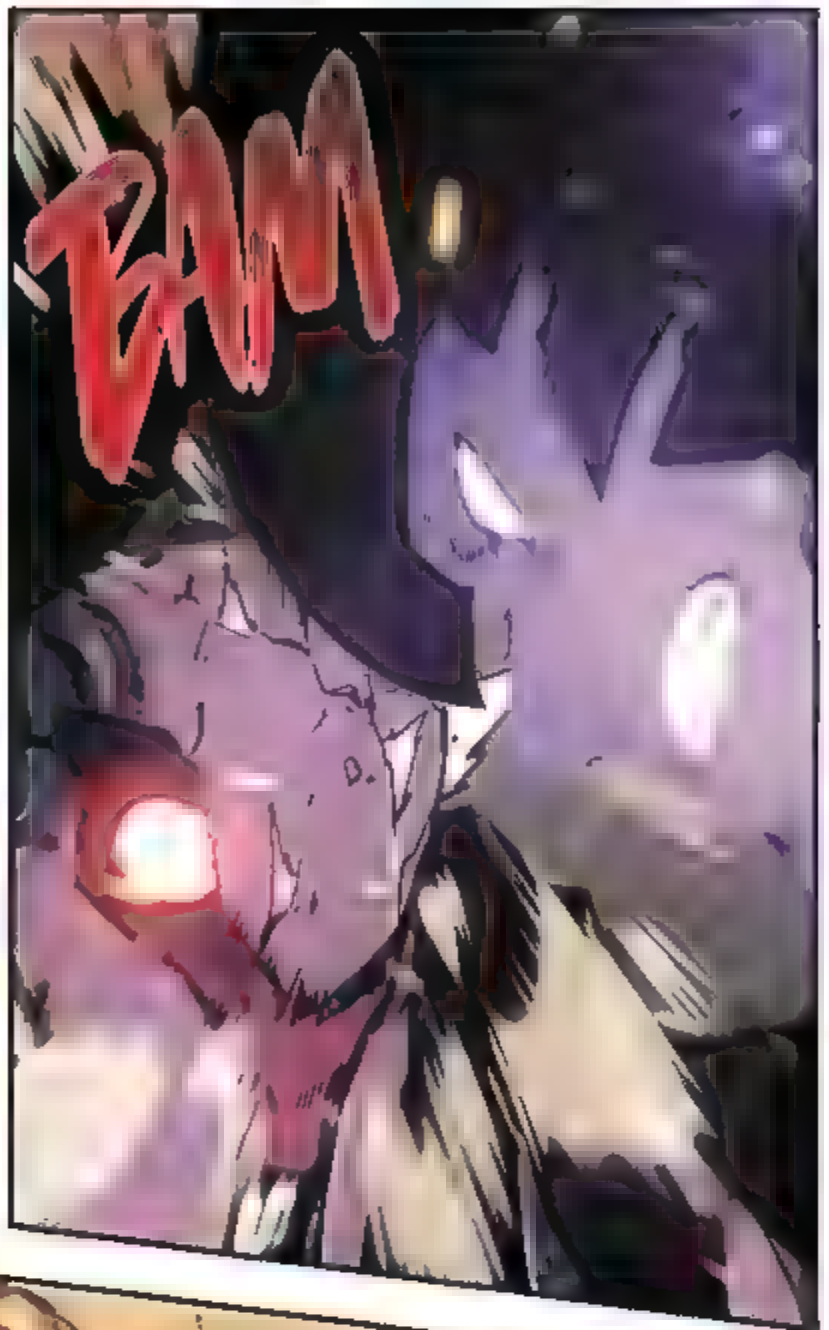






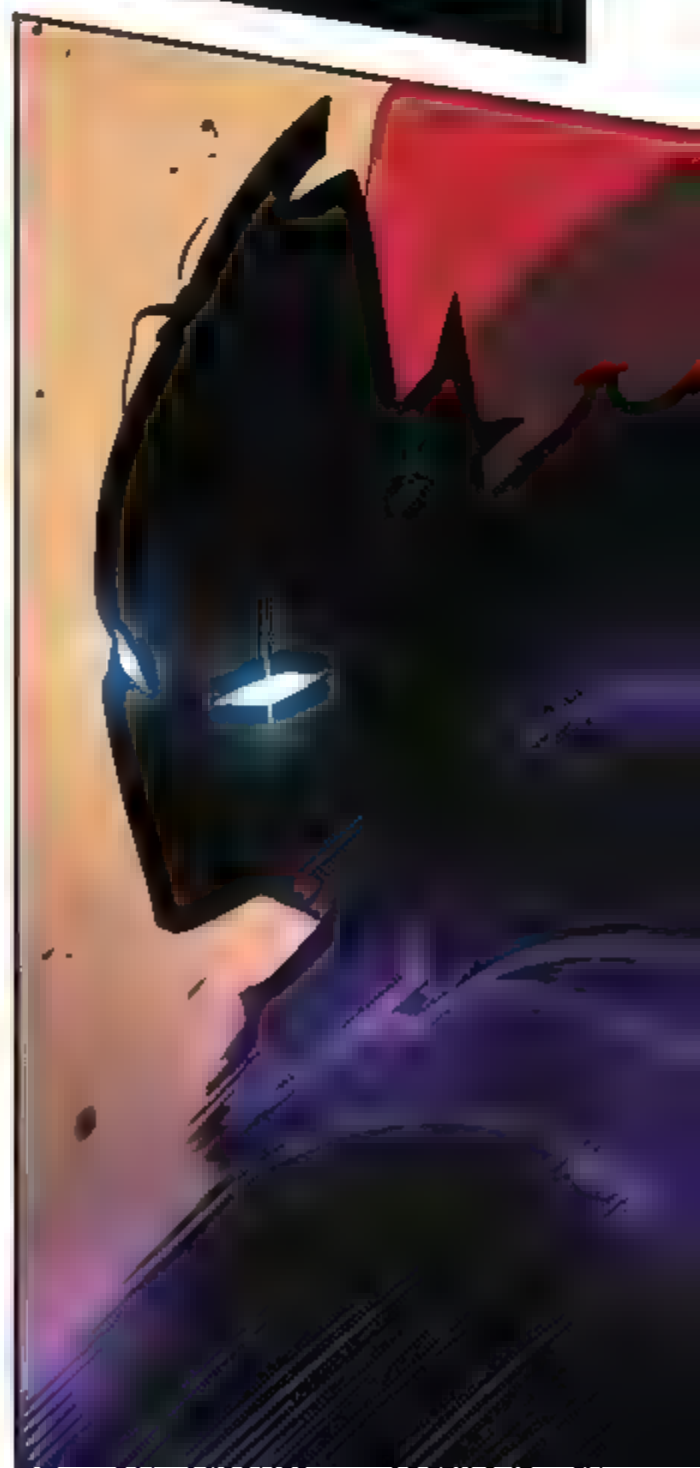
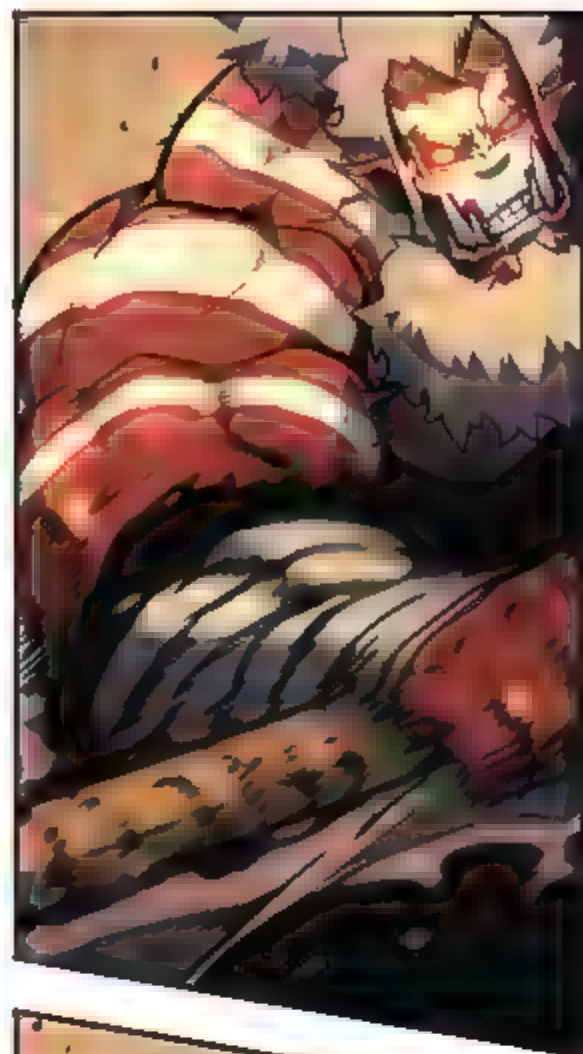


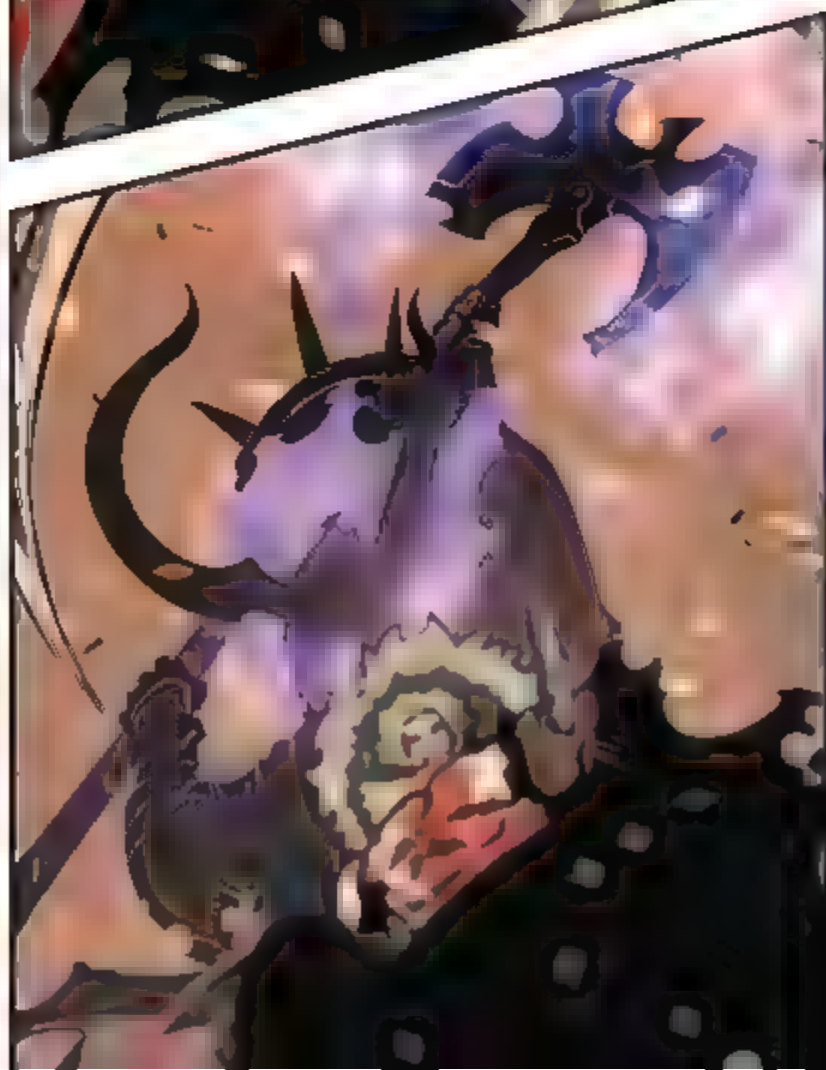
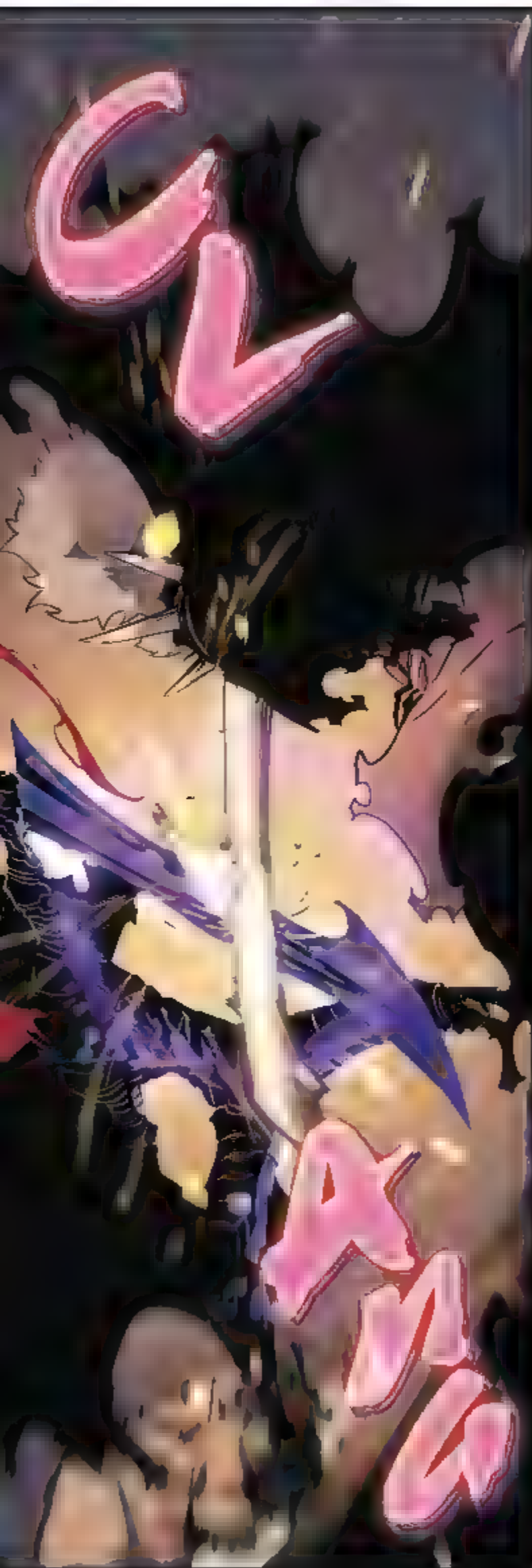


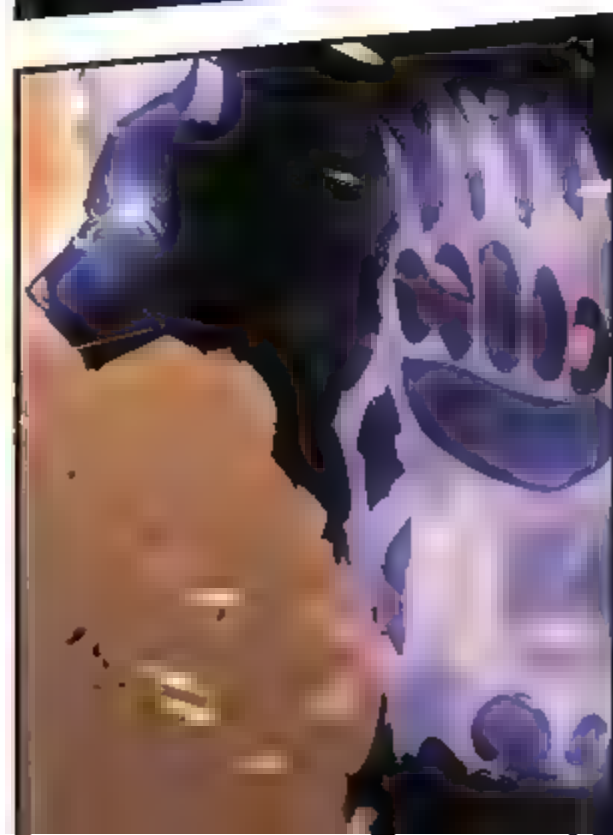
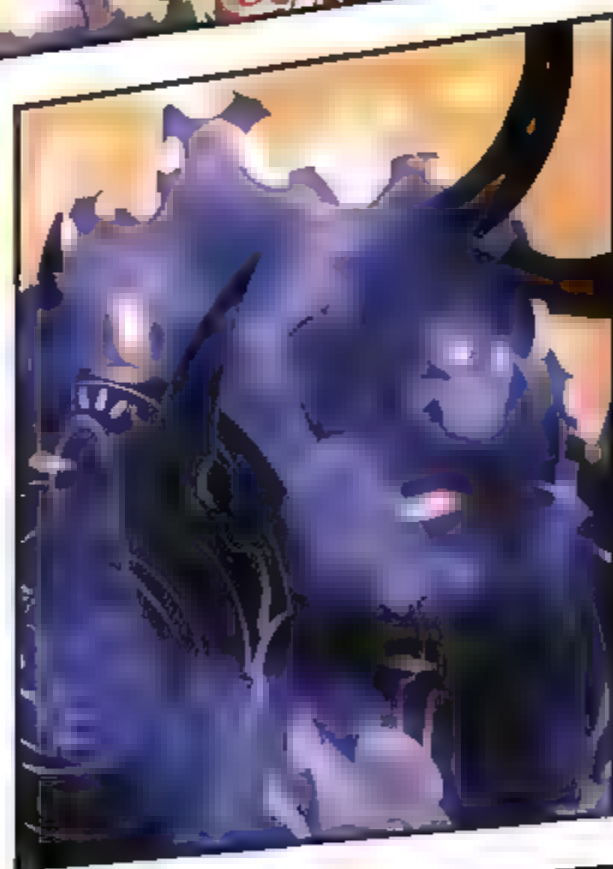






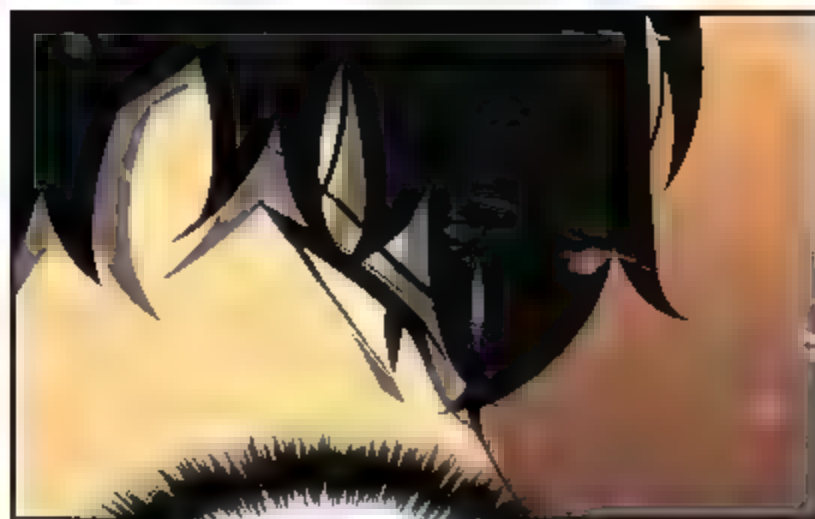








LOOKS LIKE
MY GENERALS
ARE BETTER
THAN YOURS.



BUT THEY'RE
CONSUMING MANA
FASTER THAN
POTIONS CAN
RECOVER IT.

IF THIS KEEPS
UP AND MY MANA
RUNS OUT, THE
SOLDIERS WILL JUST
DISAPPEAR.

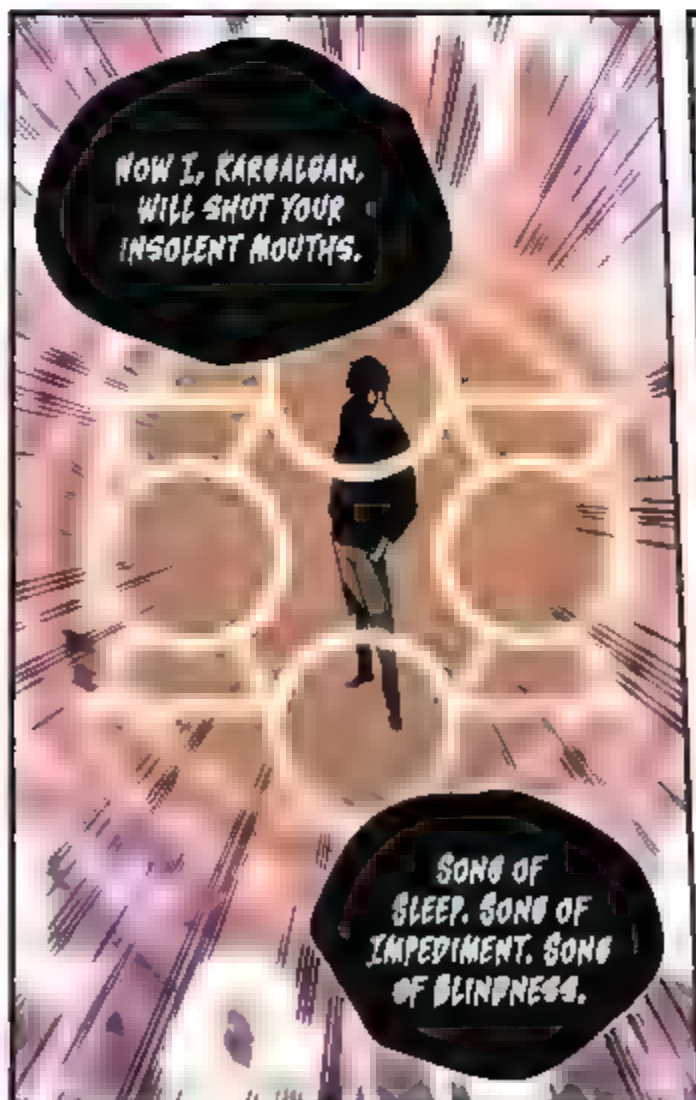
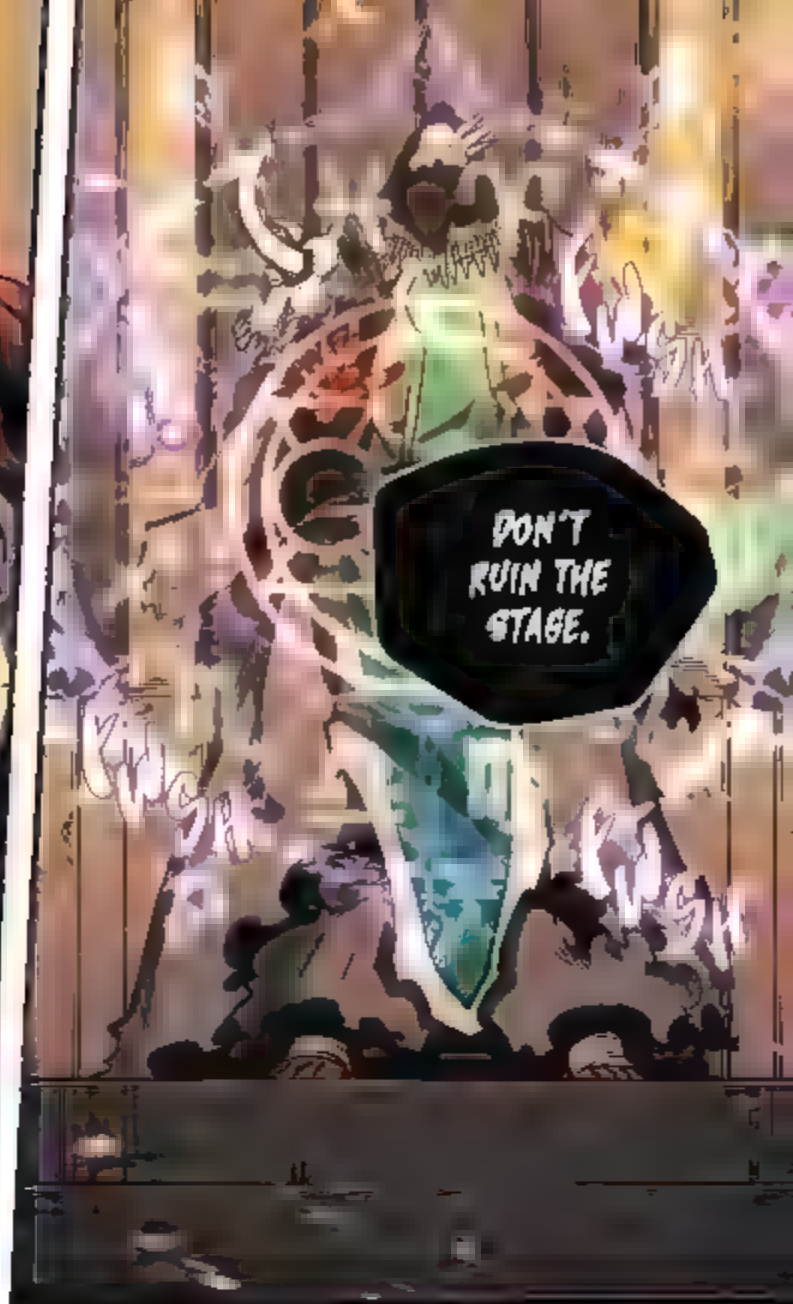


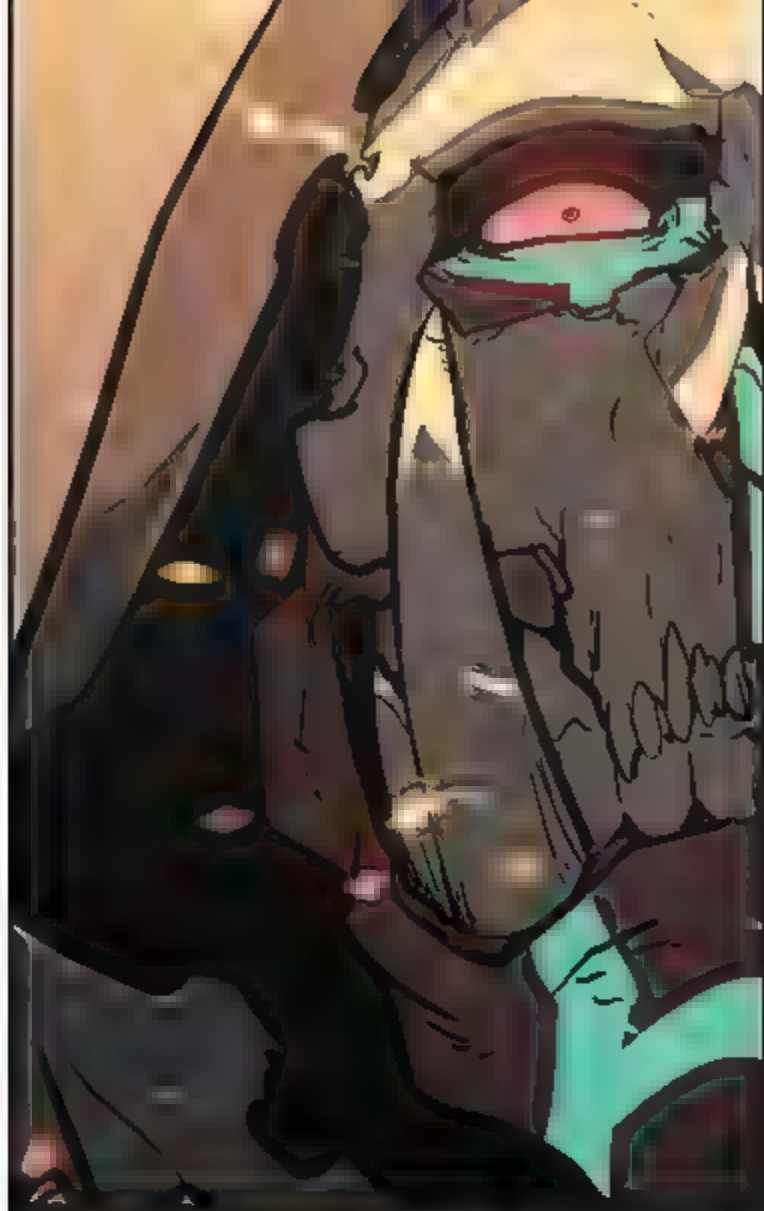
HOW COULD
THIS BE...?
WHY...?

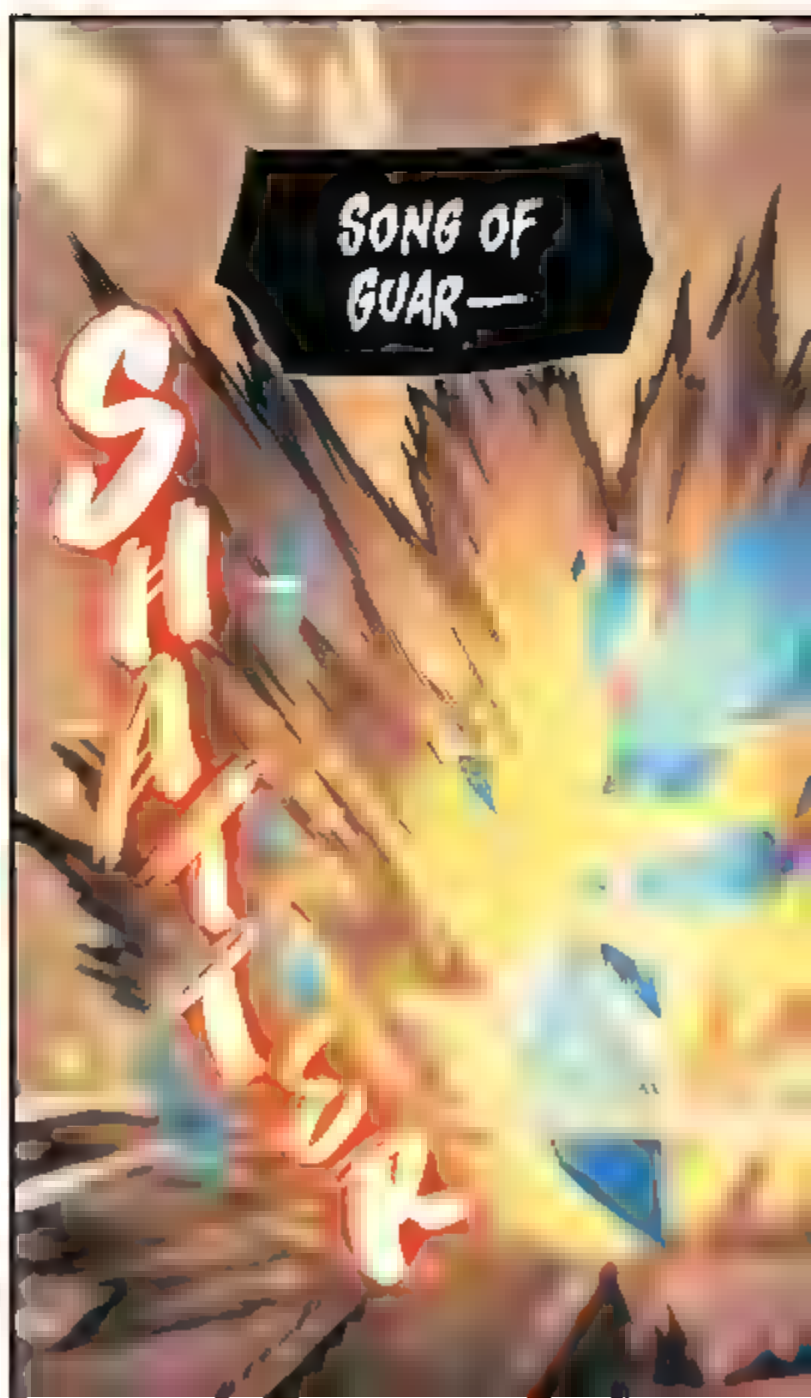


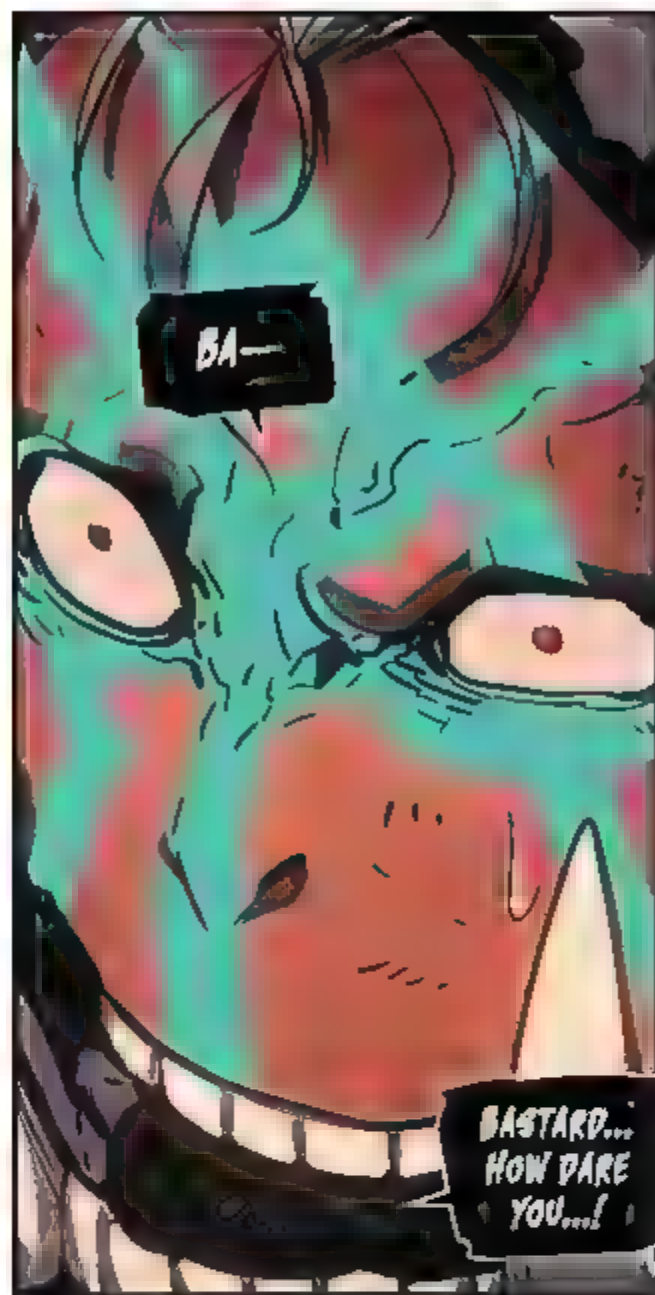
DON'T STAND
THERE GAWKING!
LET'S GO!

SONG OF
EXTREME PAIN.







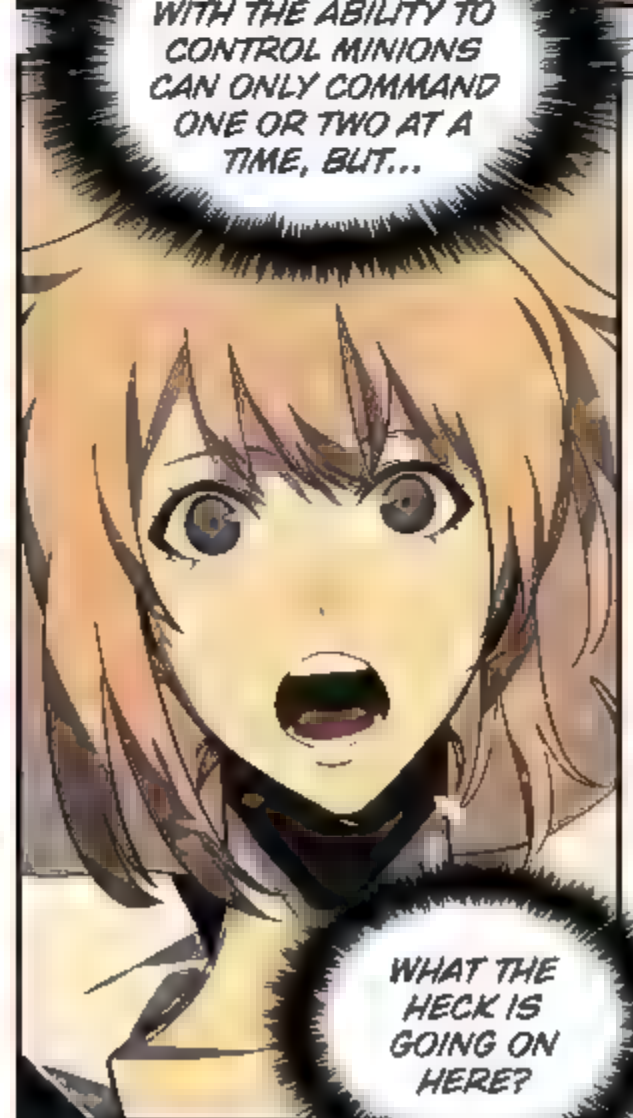




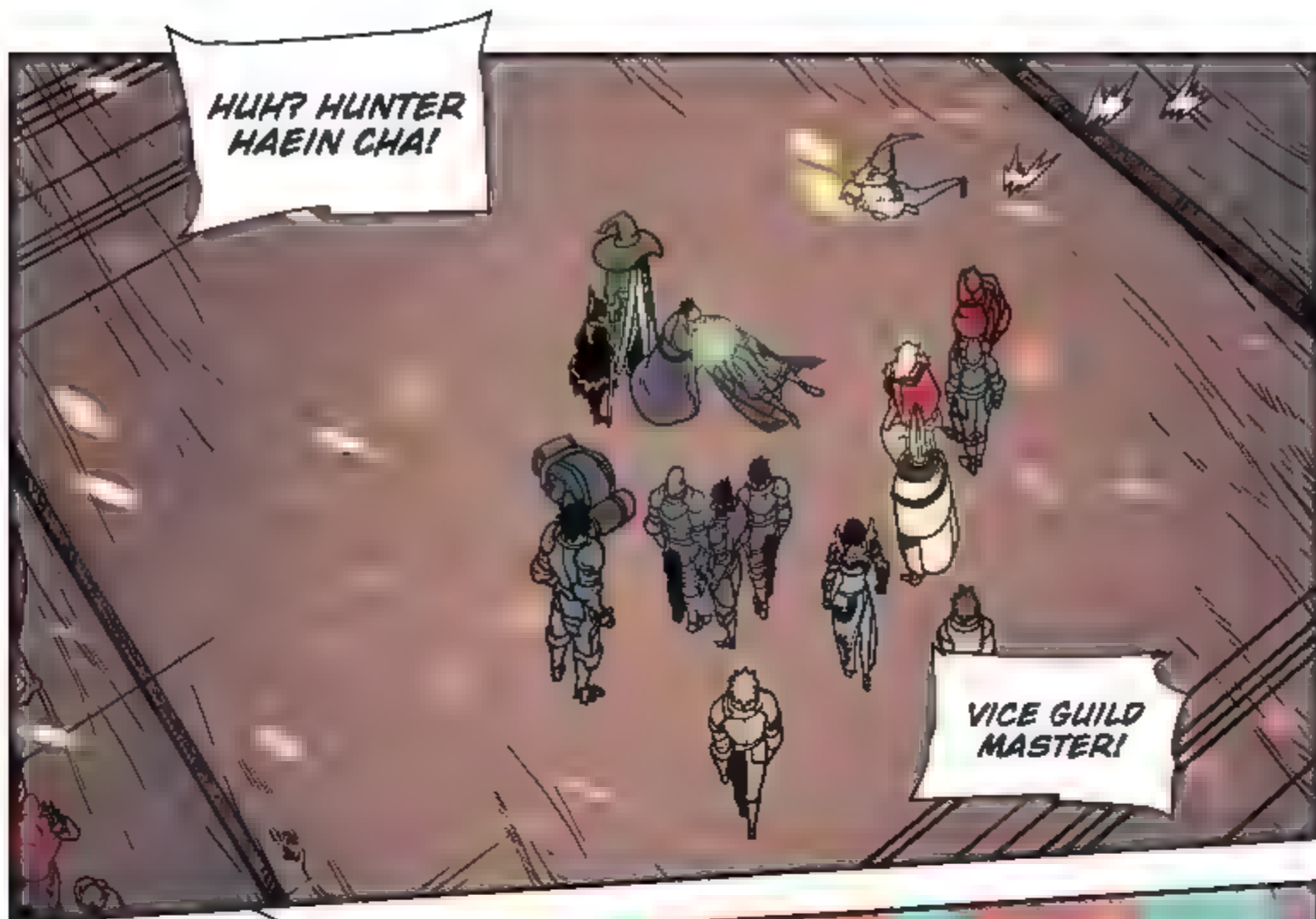
WHAT ARE ALL
THOSE...?

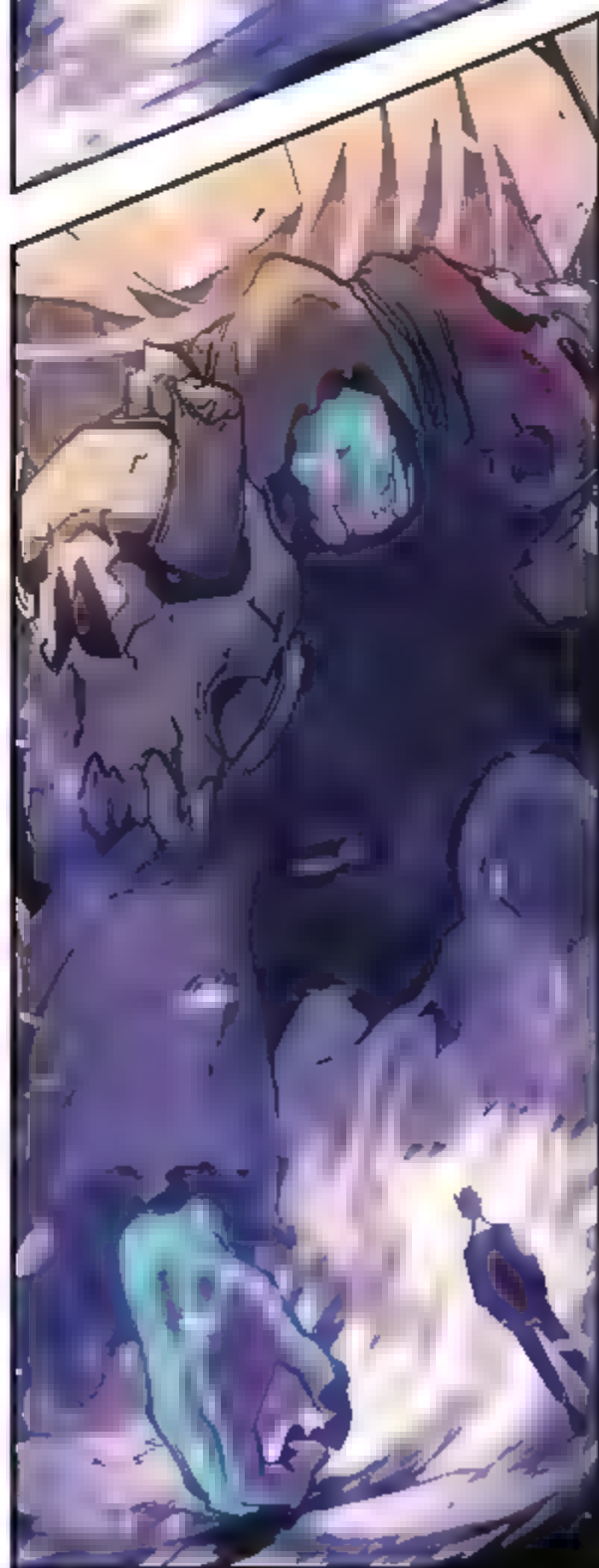
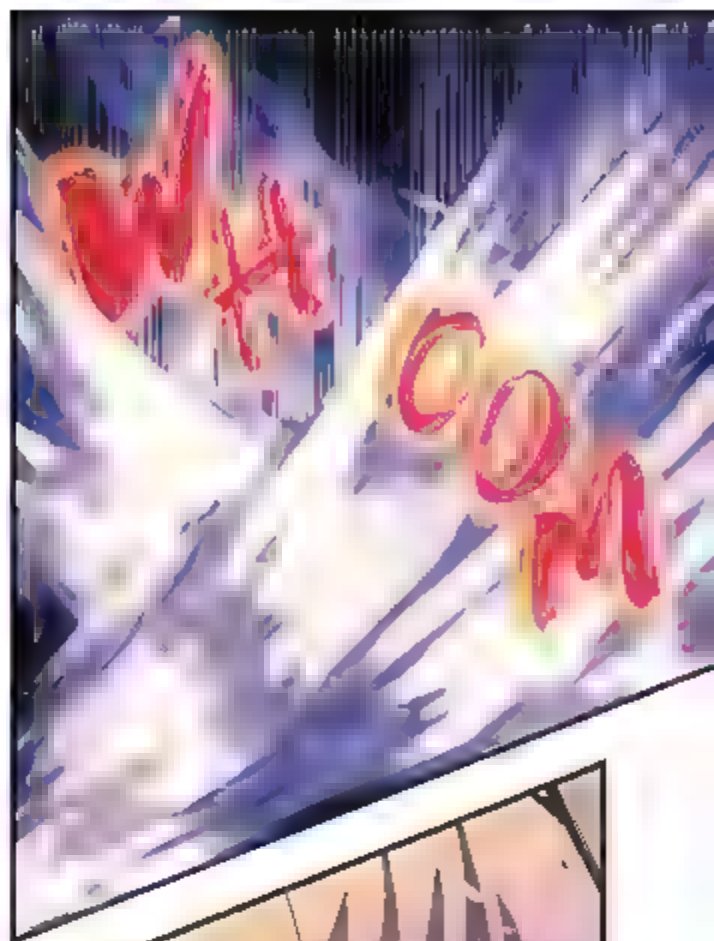
MINIONS?

MAGE HUNTERS
WITH THE ABILITY TO
CONTROL MINIONS
CAN ONLY COMMAND
ONE OR TWO AT A
TIME, BUT...



WHAT THE
HECK IS
GOING ON
HERE?







GET OUT
OF HERE!
NOW!!



DAMNED INSECTS!
I'LL STOMP ON YOU
ALL!



I'VE HAD
THE WORST
EXPERIENCE WITH
GIANTS...

YOU'RE
BRINGING
BACK BAD
MEMORIES.

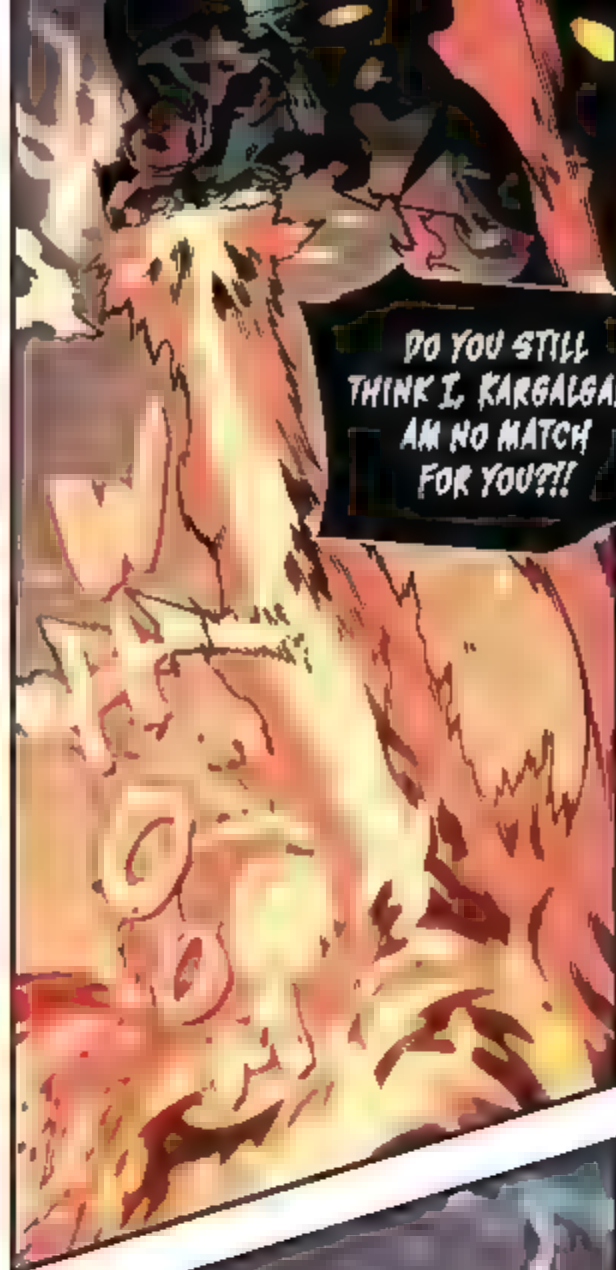


TSK.

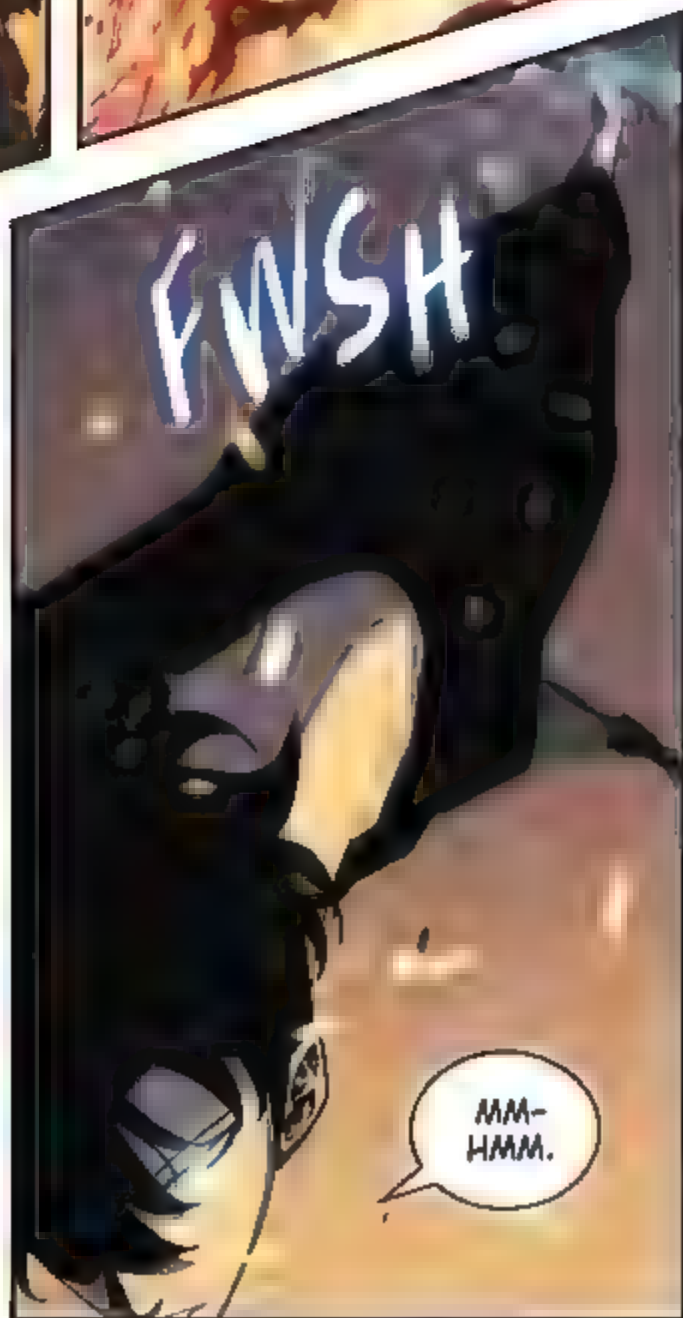
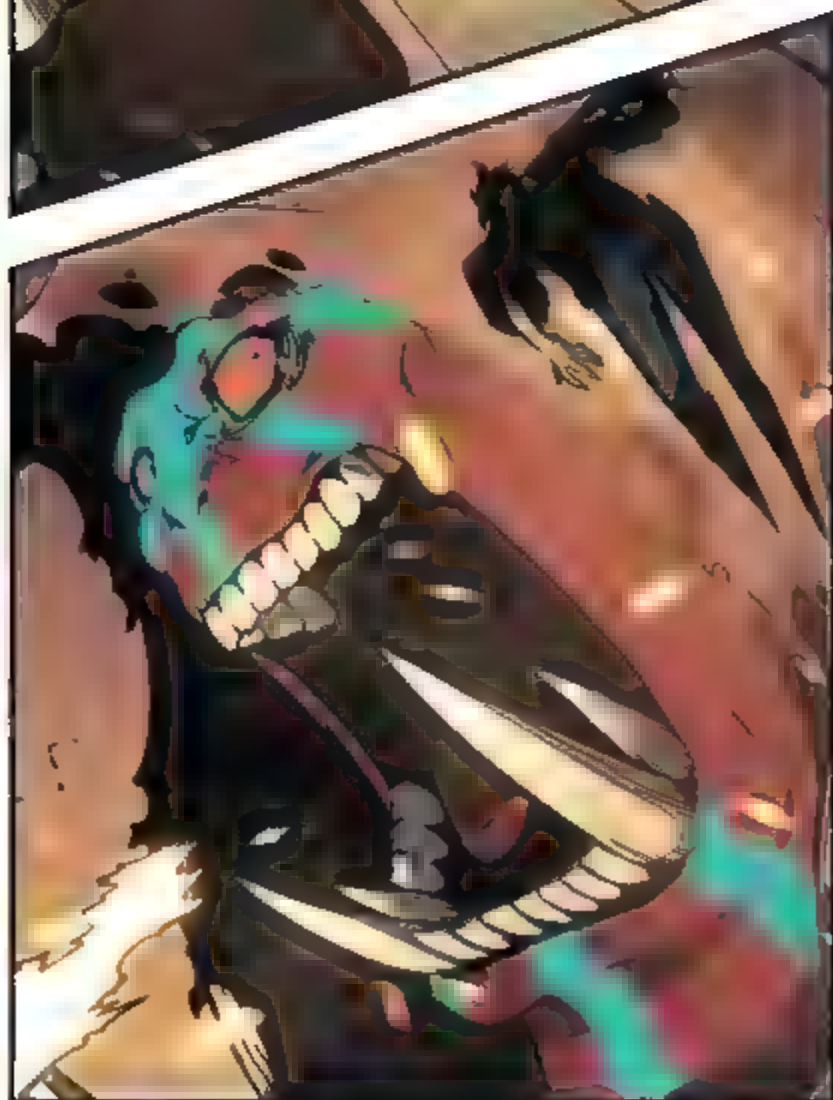




DON'T GET TOO
COCKY! I'M MERELY
PLAYING ALONG WITH
YOU, HUMAN!

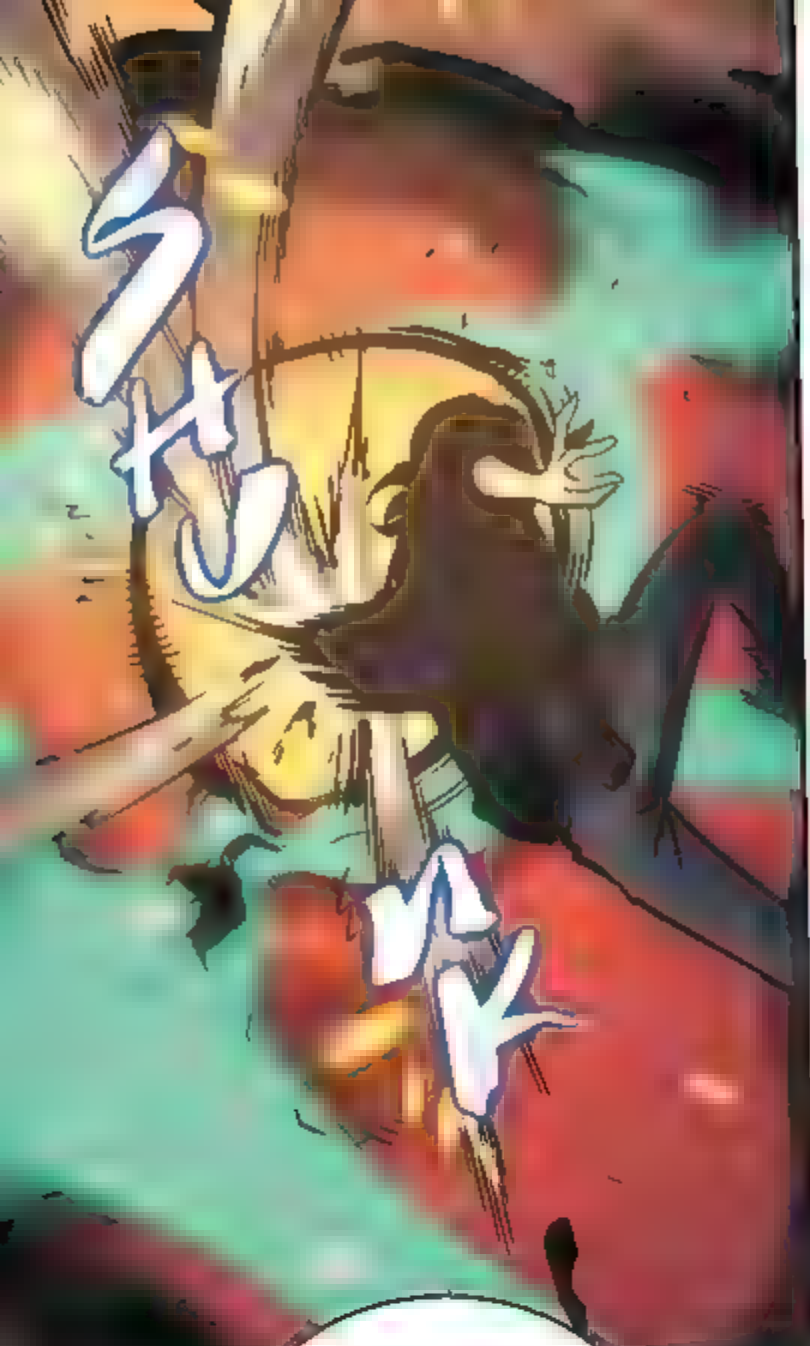


DO YOU STILL
THINK I, KARGALGAN,
AM NO MATCH
FOR YOU?!!

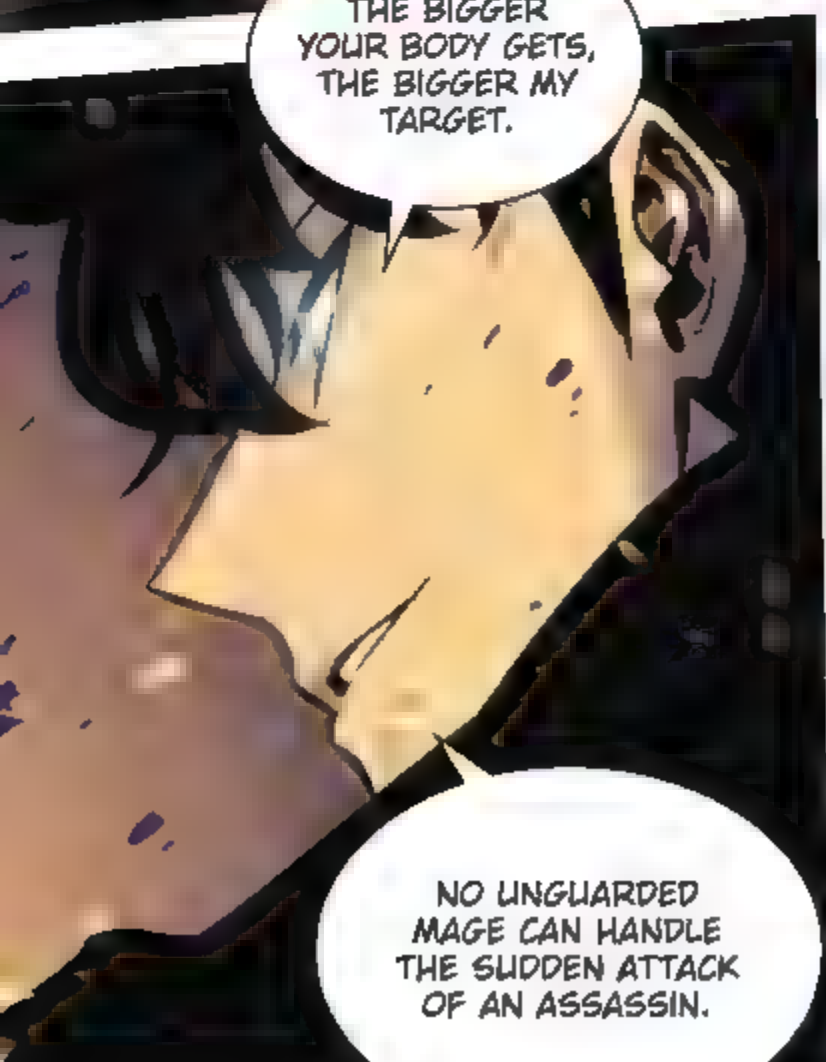


FWNSH

MM-
HMM.



THE BIGGER
YOUR BODY GETS,
THE BIGGER MY
TARGET.

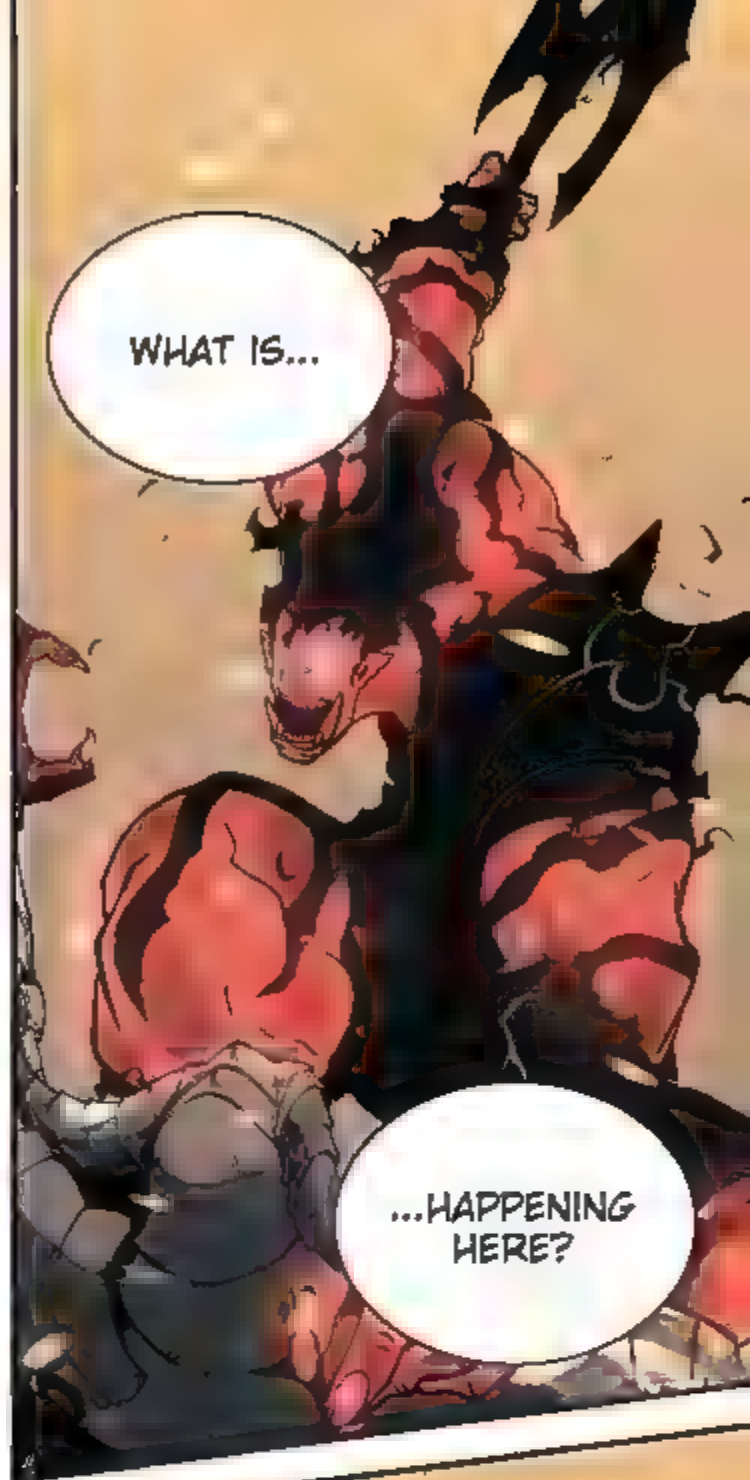


NO UNGUARDED
MAGE CAN HANDLE
THE SUDDEN ATTACK
OF AN ASSASSIN.



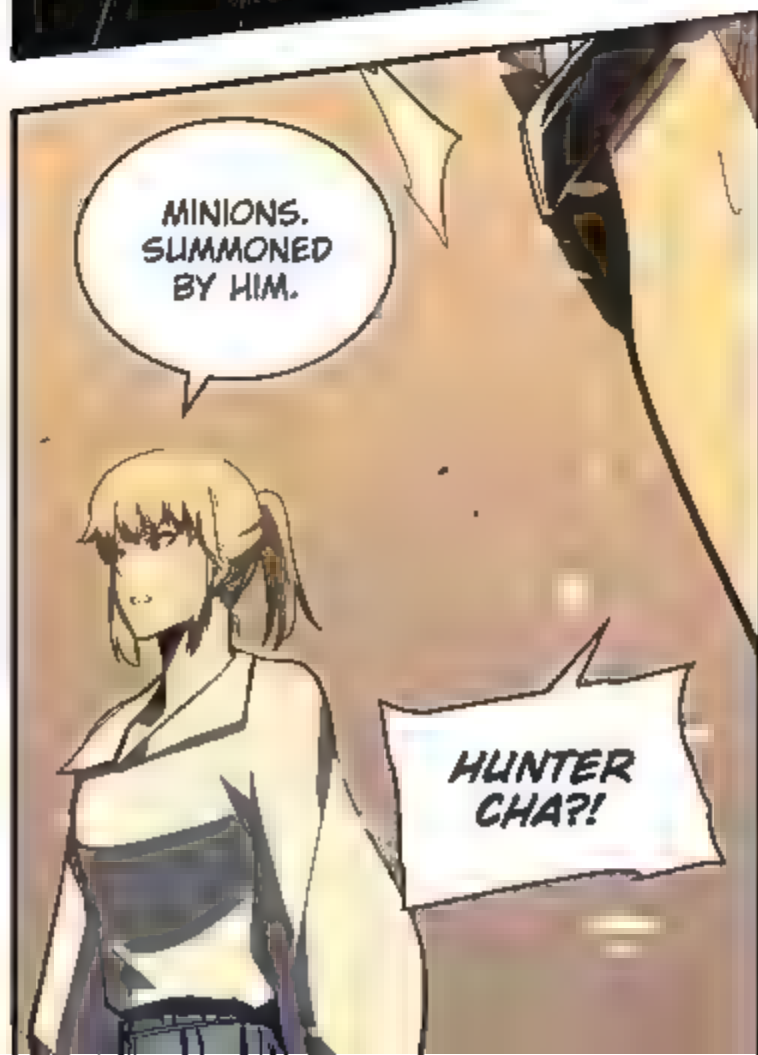


WH-WHAT IS...?



WHAT IS...

...HAPPENING HERE?



MINIONS. SUMMONED BY HIM.

HUNTER CHA?!



"HIM"...?



CAN'T DELIVER
THE FATAL BLOW
TO THIS BIG A GUY
WITH A DAGGER.

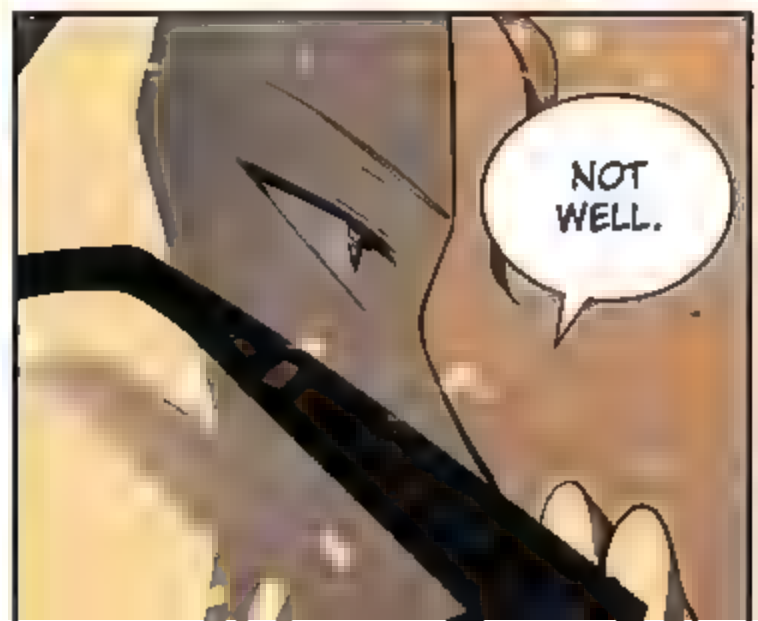
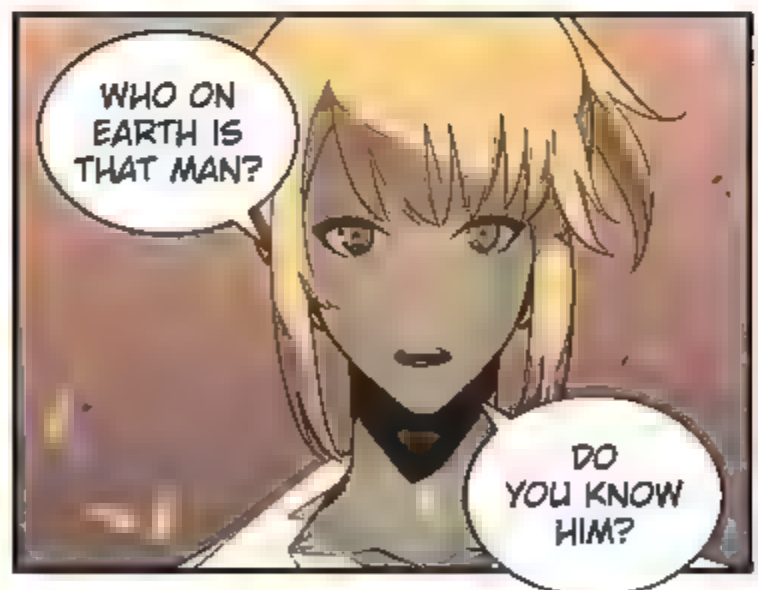
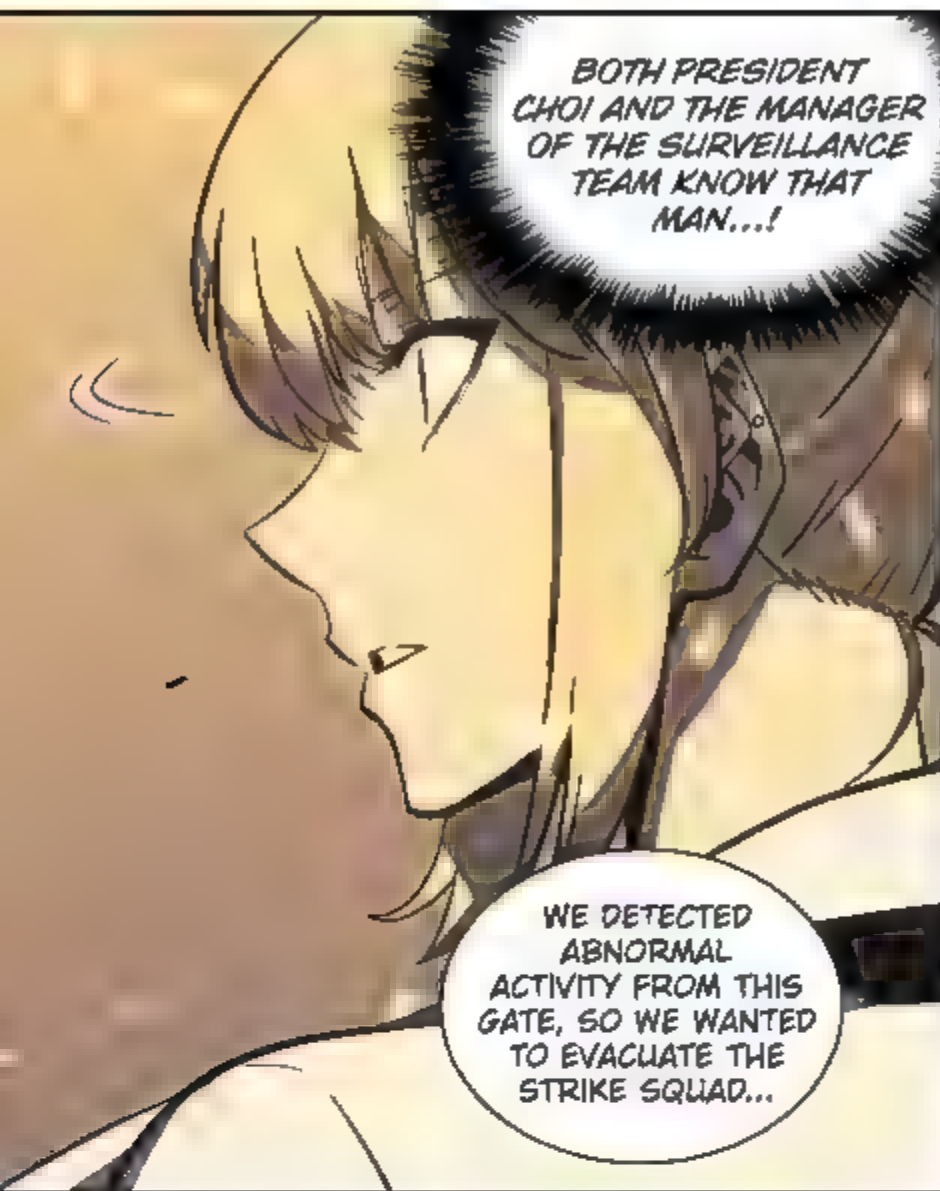
IN THAT
CASE...



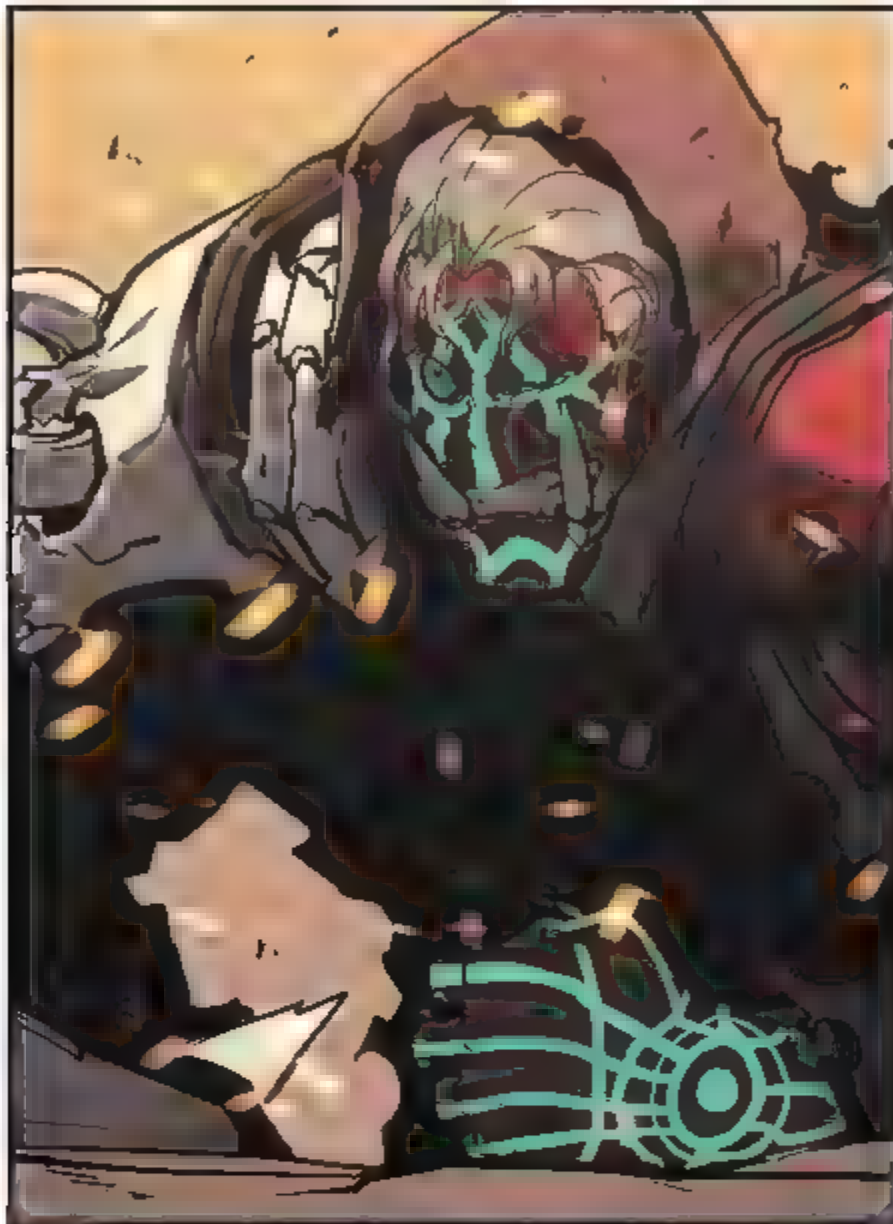
...THIS IS THE
BEST COURSE
OF ACTION!

KA
POW

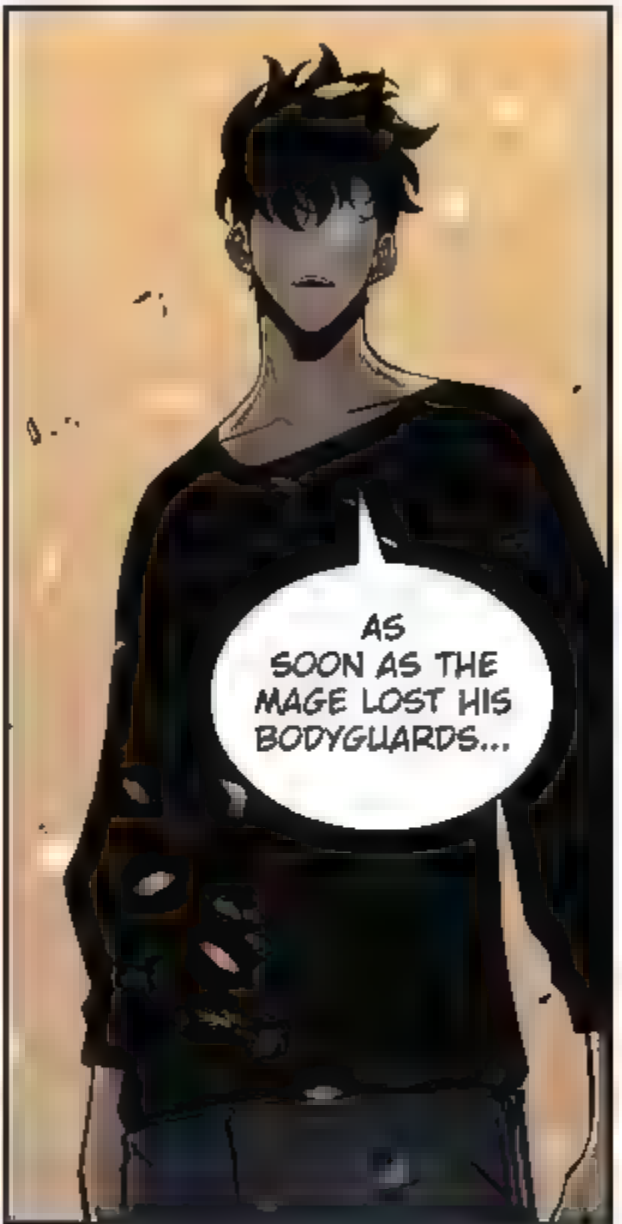




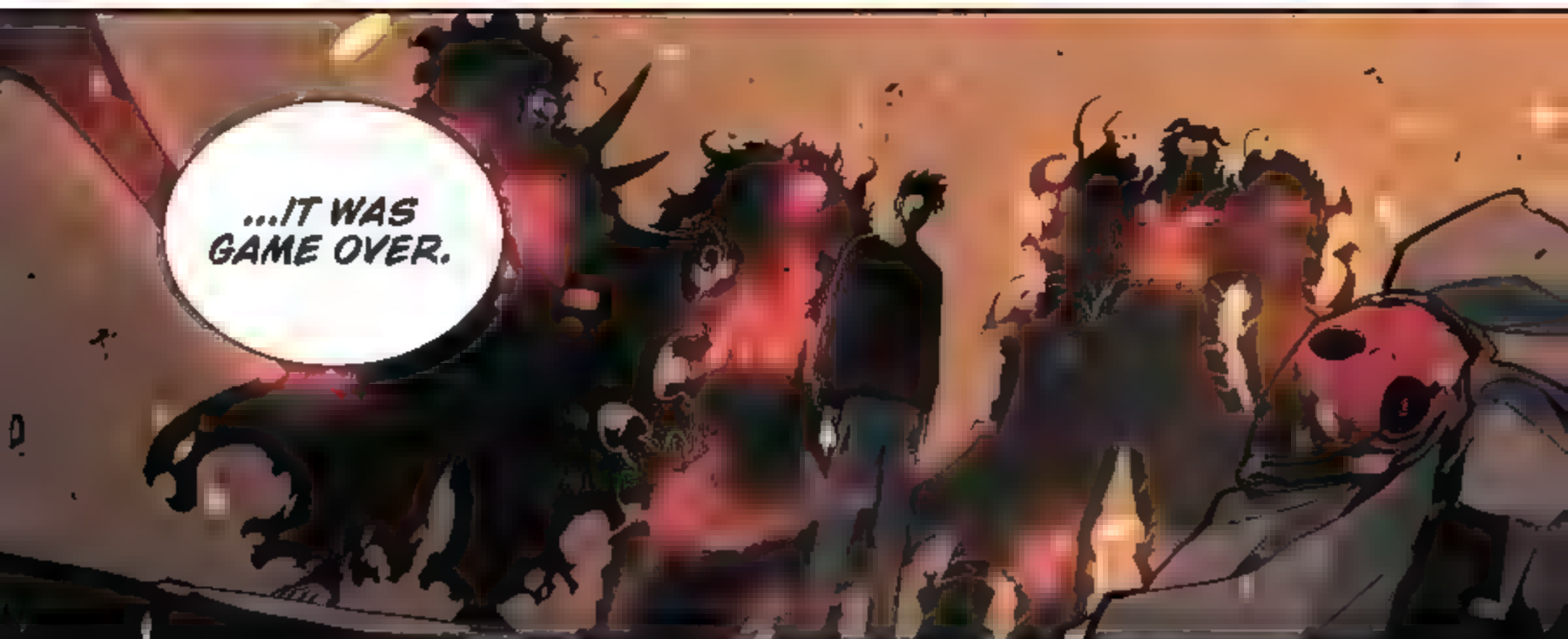
NOT VERY
WELL AT ALL...



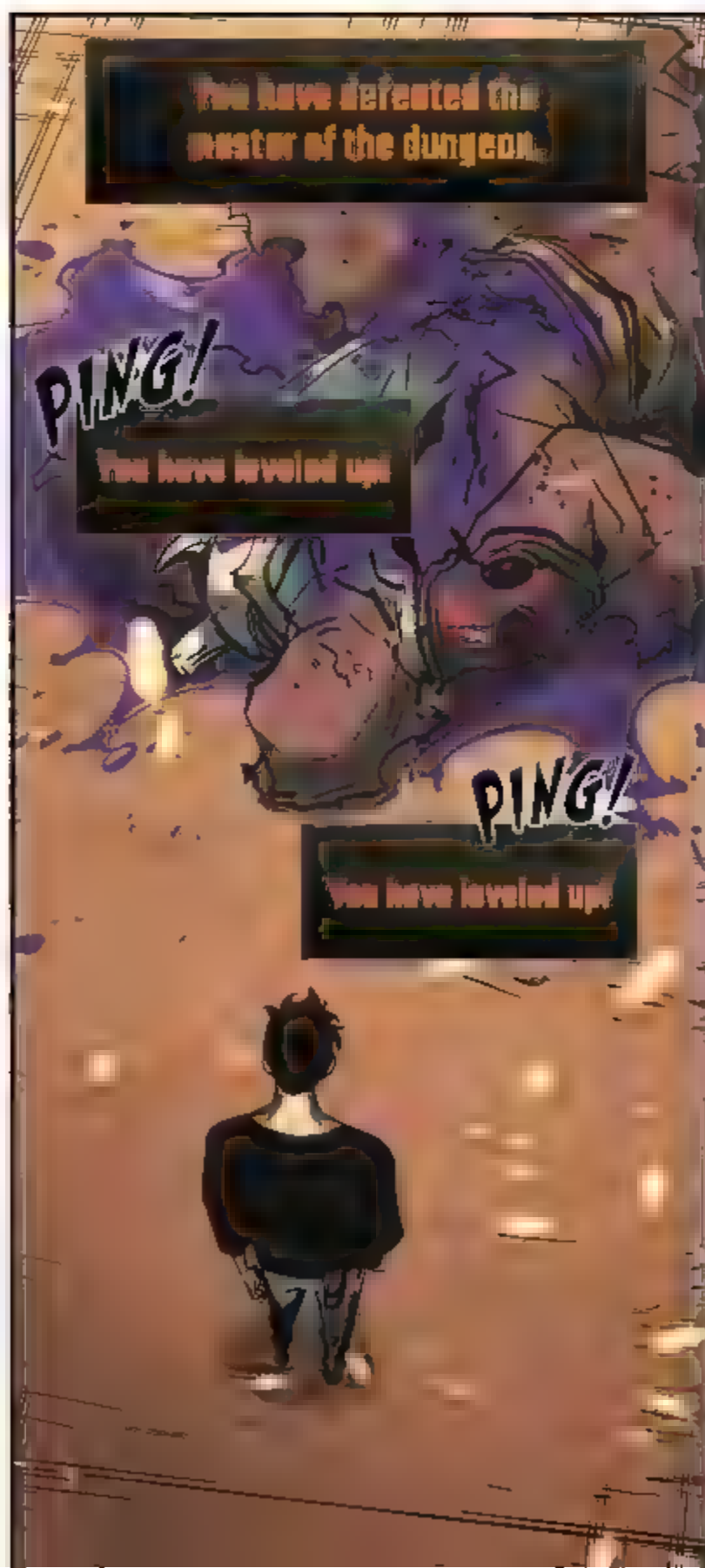
AS
SOON AS THE
MAGE LOST HIS
BODYGUARDS...



...IT WAS
GAME OVER.

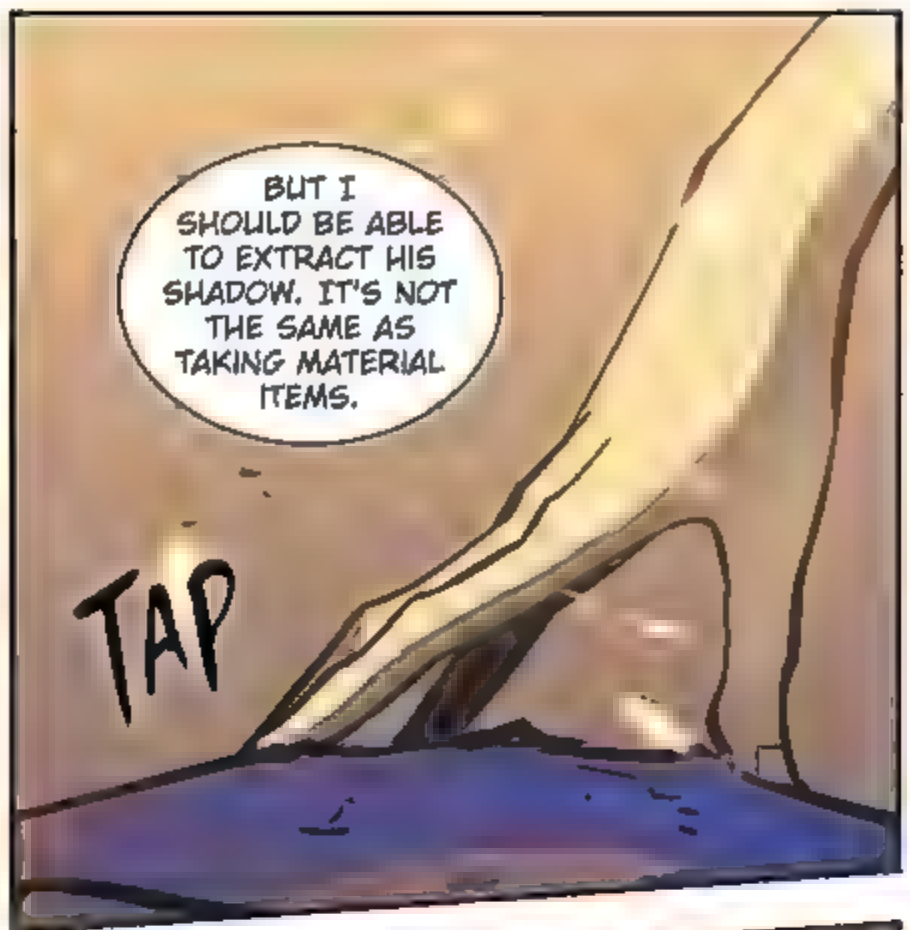








THIS IS THE HUNTERS
GUILD'S DUNGEON. I
SHOULDN'T BE EYEING
AN A-RANK DUNGEON
BOSS'S LOOT.

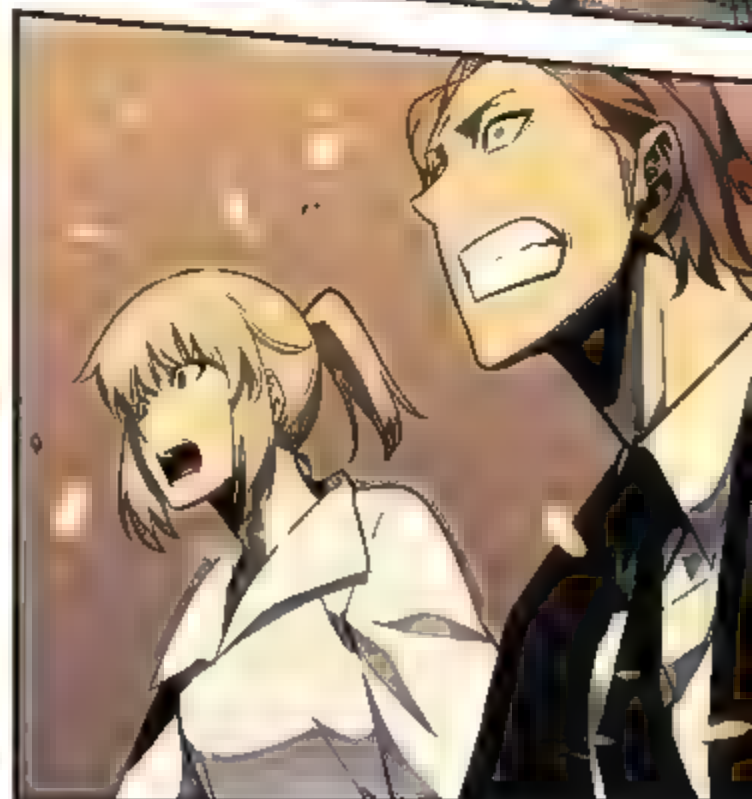
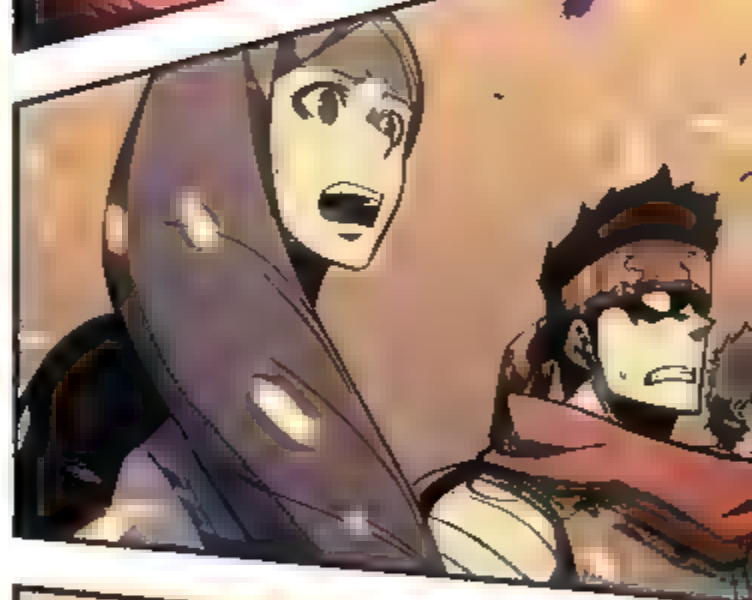


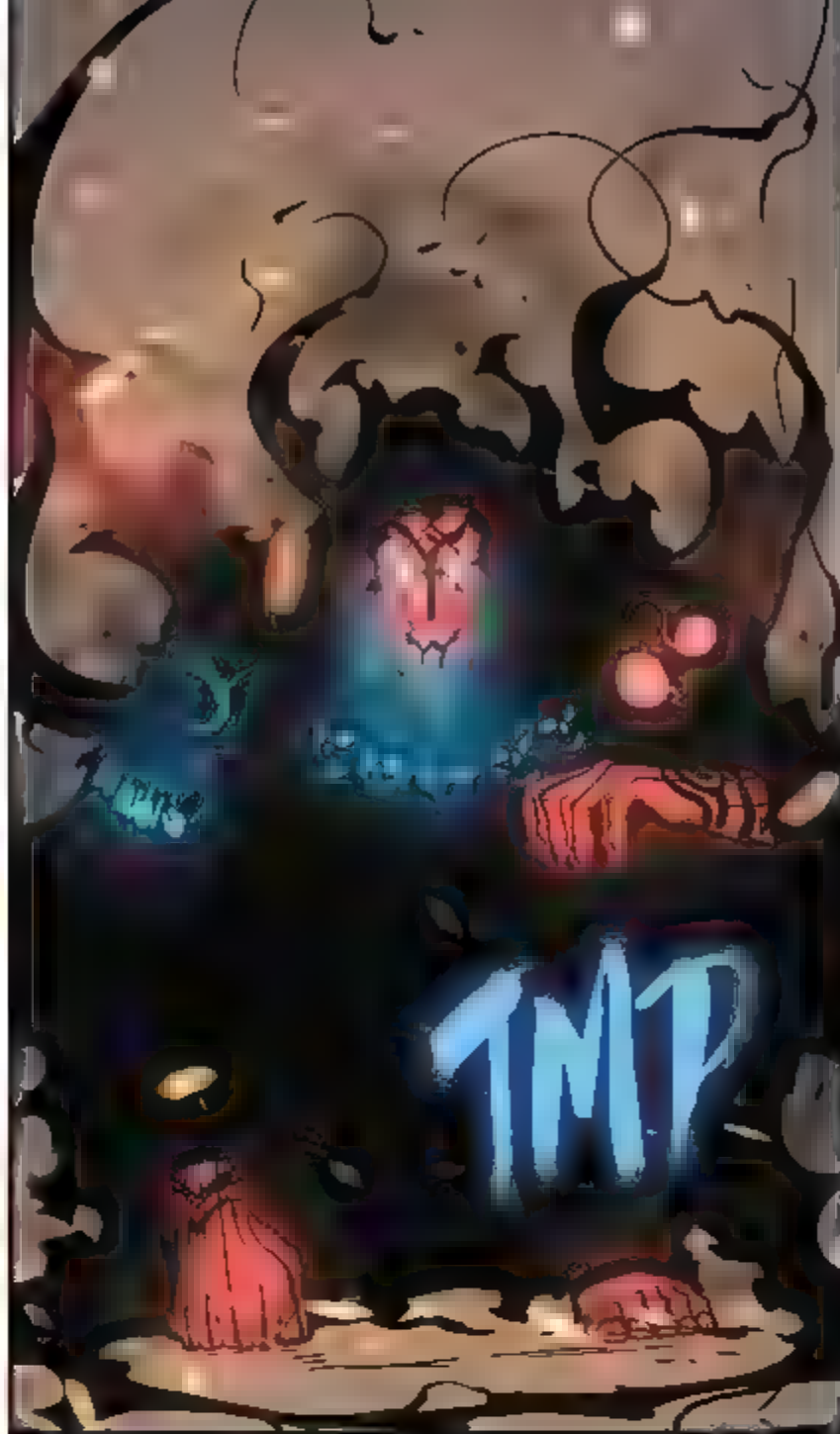
BUT I
SHOULD BE ABLE
TO EXTRACT HIS
SHADOW. IT'S NOT
THE SAME AS
TAKING MATERIAL
ITEMS.

TAP



ARISE.





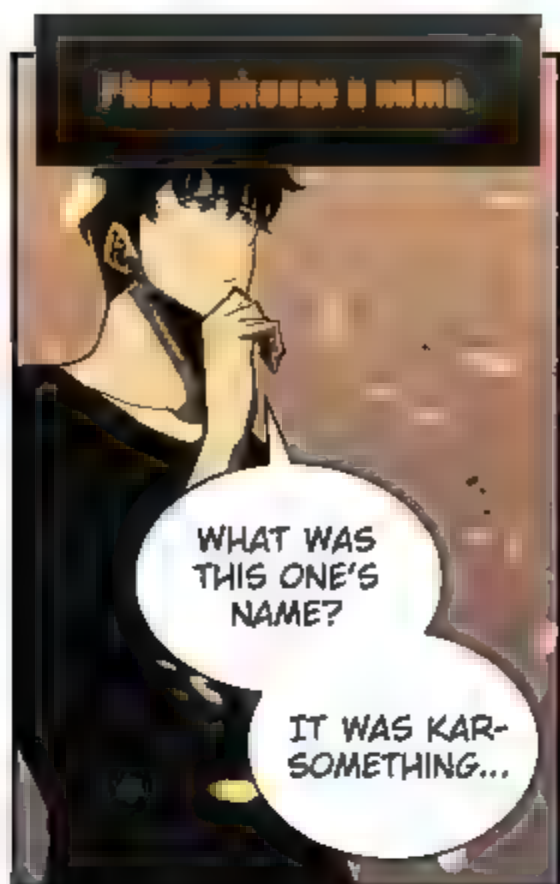
HE'S CHILL
NOW THAT HE'S
A SHADOW
SOLDIER.

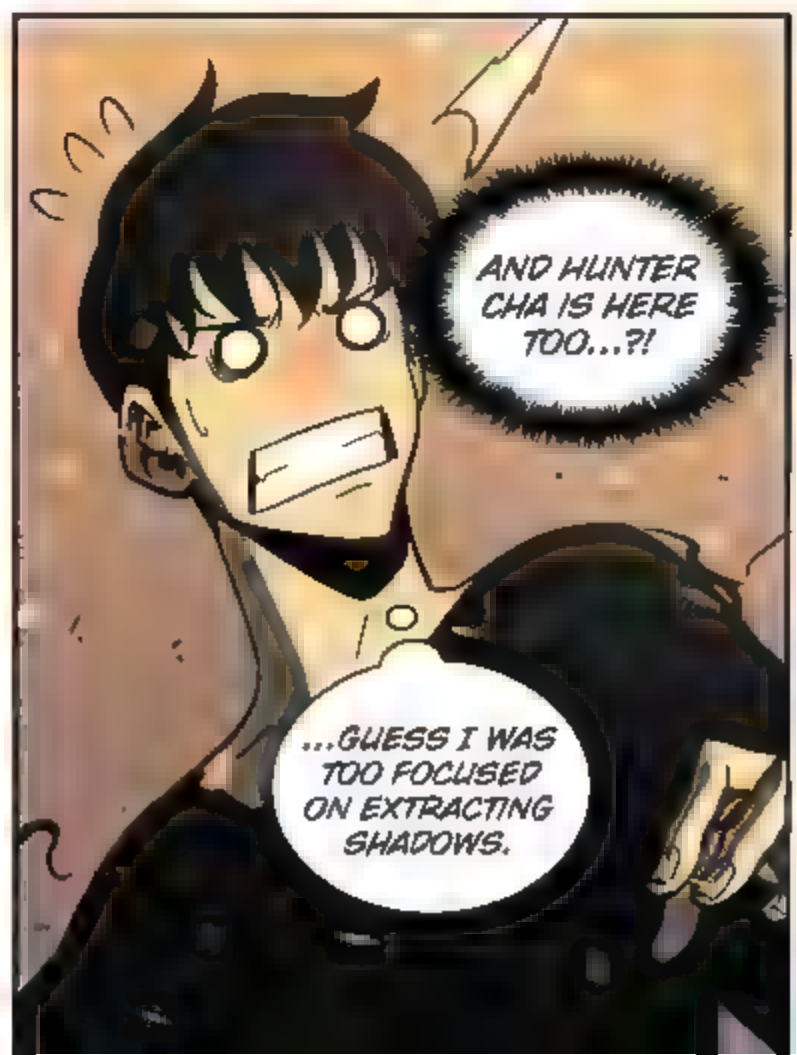


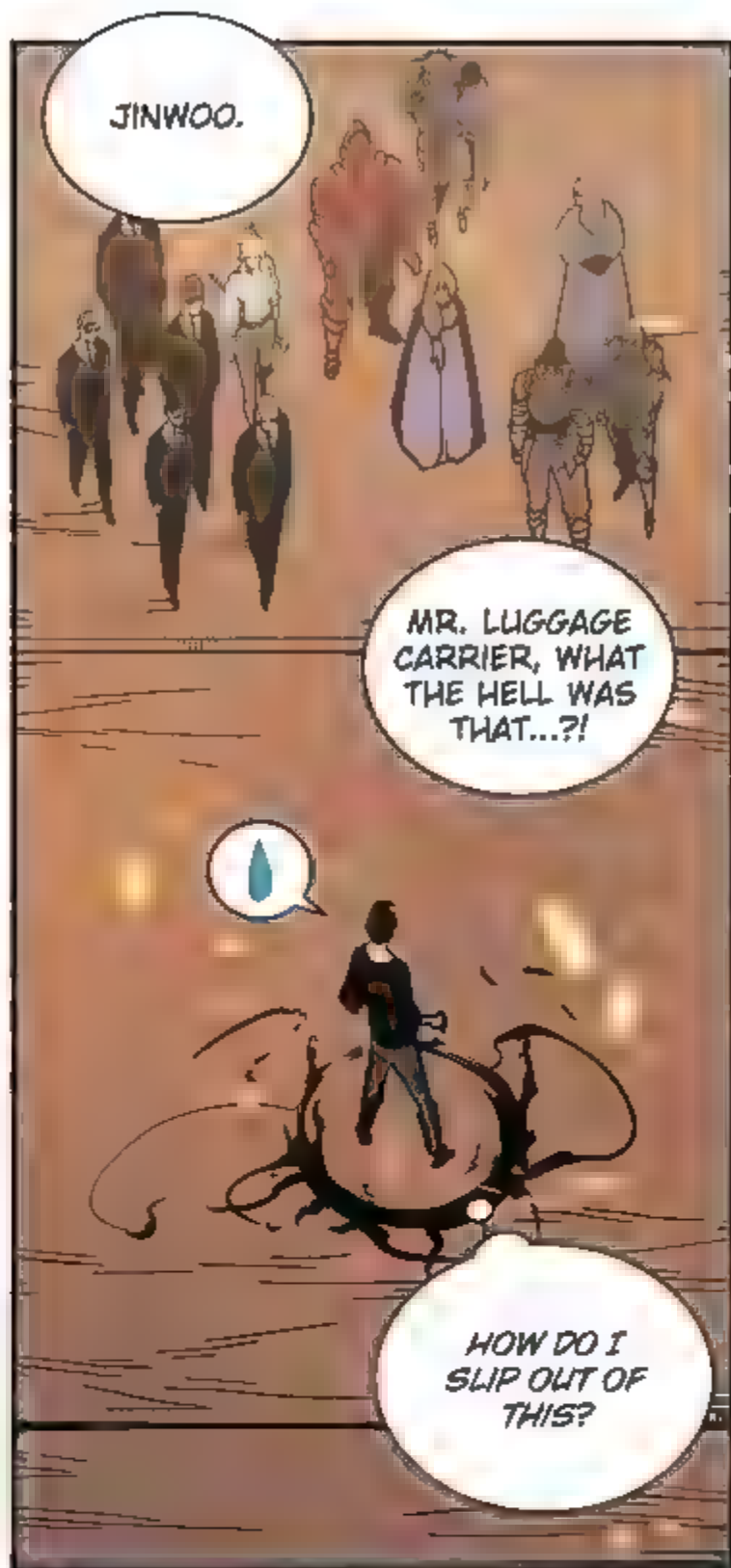
REGULAR RANK.
ELITE RANK.
KNIGHT RANK.

THERE WERE
ONLY THREE
CONFIRMED RANKS
BEFORE, BUT
THIS IS—

A SHADOW
SOLDIER MADE FROM
AN A-RANK DUNGEON
BOSS IS DEFINITELY
ON A WHOLE OTHER
LEVEL.







JINWOO.

MR. LUGGAGE
CARRIER, WHAT
THE HELL WAS
THAT...?!



HOW DO I
SLIP OUT OF
THIS?



TAK



I'M FROM THE
ASSOCIATION'S
SURVEILLANCE
TEAM.

THE ASSOCIATION
IS MANAGING
HUNTER JINWOO
SLUNG'S CASE.

ALL MATTERS
RELATING TO HIM
ARE CONSIDERED
TOP SECRET.

ONCE WE'RE OUT
OF THE DUNGEON, WE'LL
EXPLAIN IN DETAIL, BUT WE
WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST YOU
KEEP EVERYTHING YOU'VE
WITNESSED HERE
CONFIDENTIAL.

PLEASE
COME WITH
US.

THIS IS
THE BEST WAY,
IF YOU WANT
TO AVOID A
SCENE.



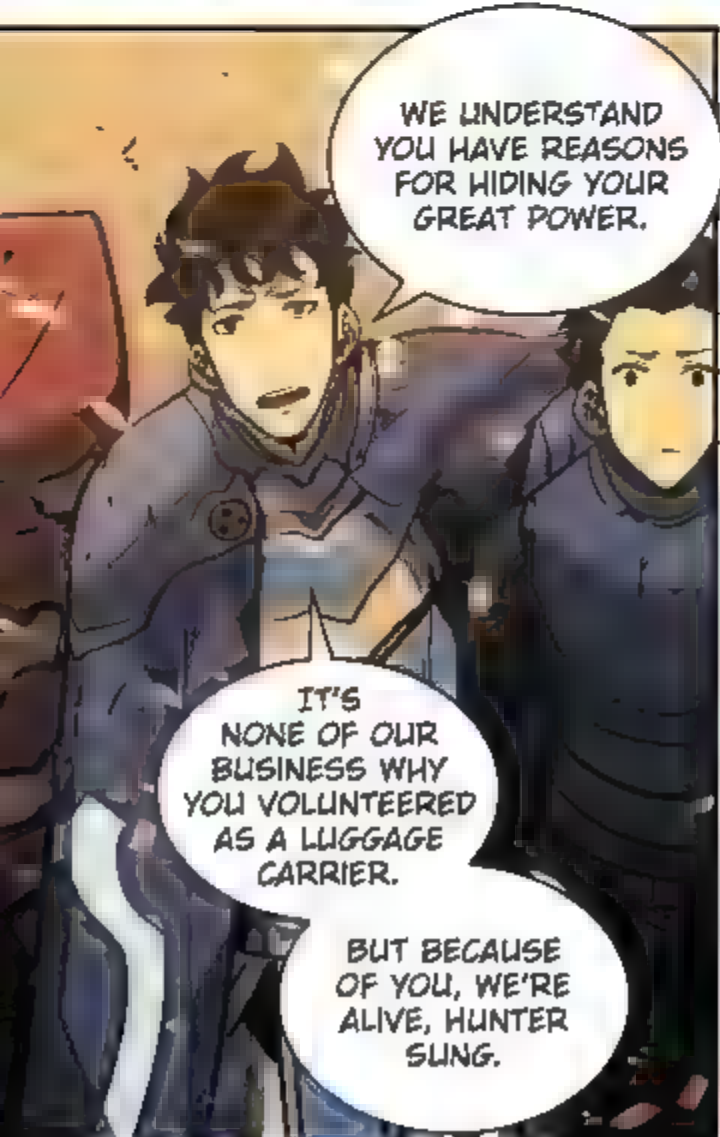
HUNTER SUNG
JUST DEMONSTRATED
THAT HE POSSESSES
POWERS BEYOND THOSE
OF AN S-RANK HUNTER IN
FRONT OF MEMBERS OF
THE LARGEST AND
WEALTHIEST GUILD
IN KOREA.

IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE SUBMIT
THEM TO THE
ASSOCIATION.

WE WILL
NOW ESCORT
HUNTER JINWOOD
SUNG OUT.



W-WAIT!



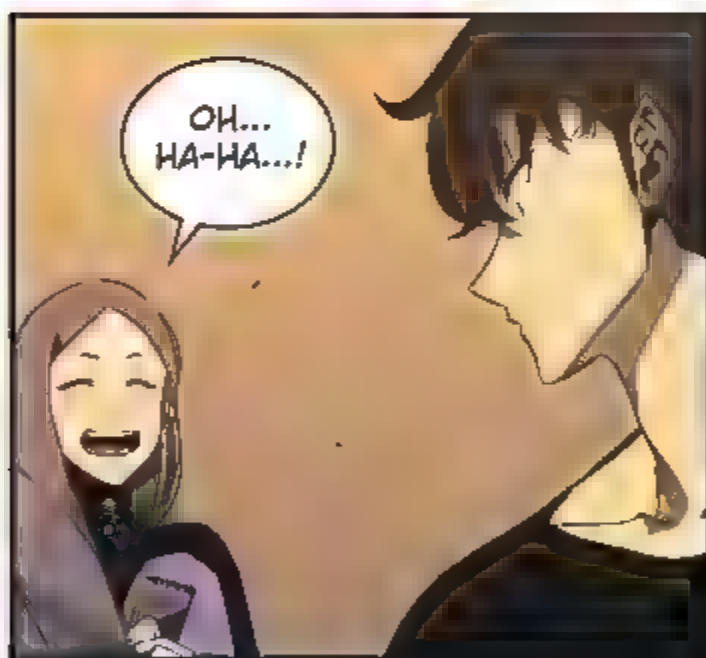
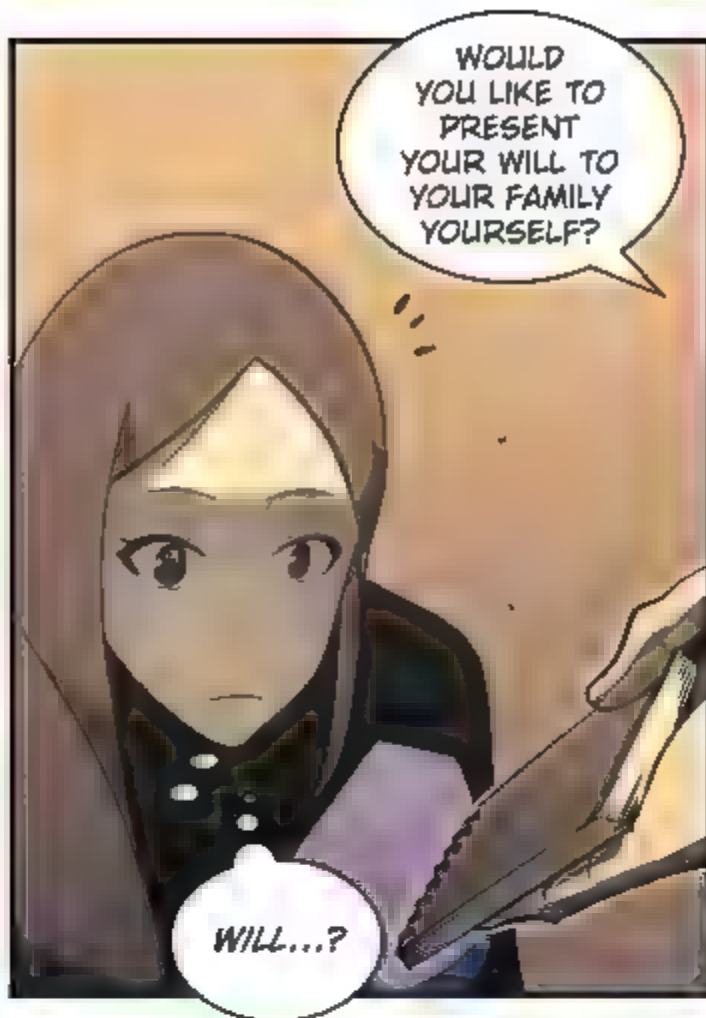
WE UNDERSTAND
YOU HAVE REASONS
FOR HIDING YOUR
GREAT POWER.

IT'S
NONE OF OUR
BUSINESS WHY
YOU VOLUNTEERED
AS A LUGGAGE
CARRIER.

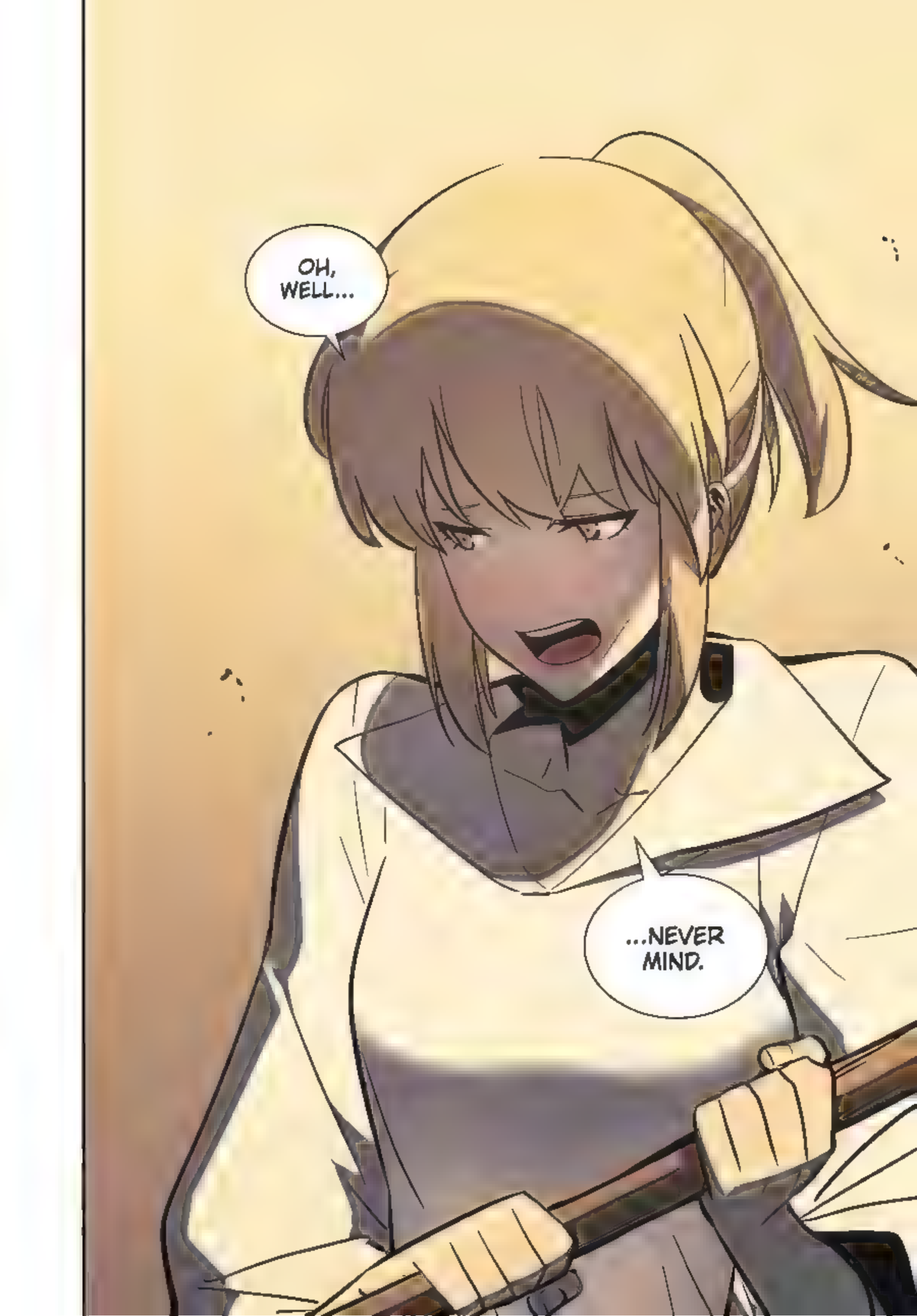
BUT BECAUSE
OF YOU, WE'RE
ALIVE, HUNTER
SUNG.



SO ON BEHALF
OF THE ENTIRE
STRIKE SQUAD,
THANK YOU.

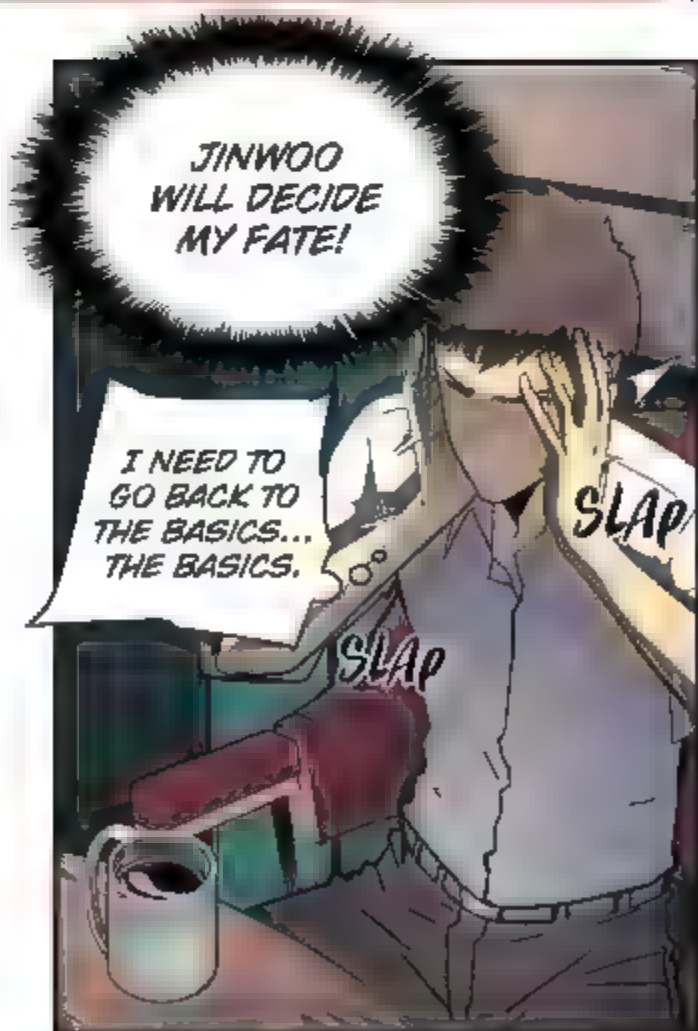


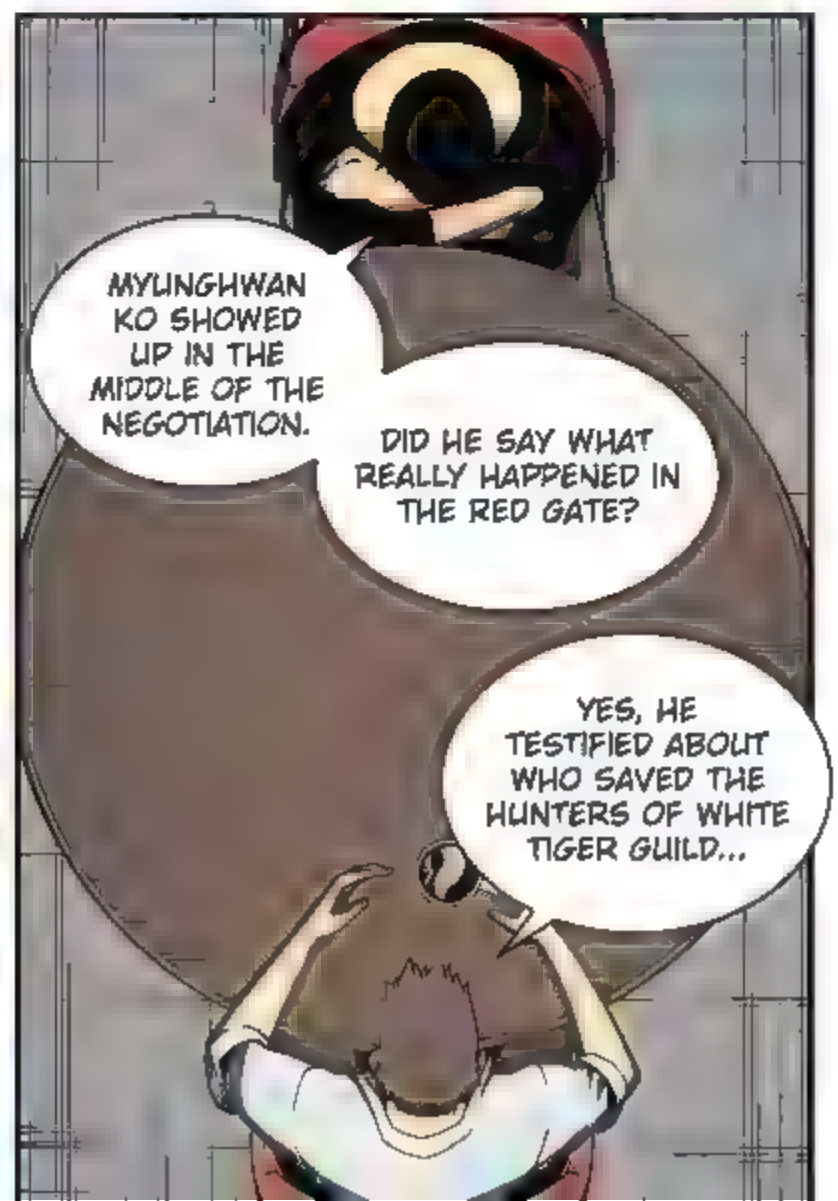


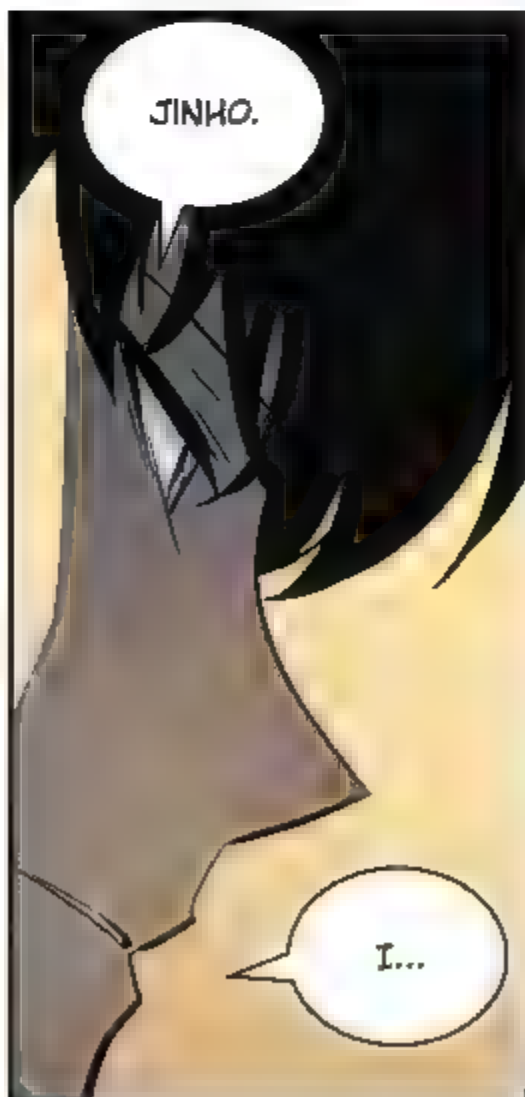
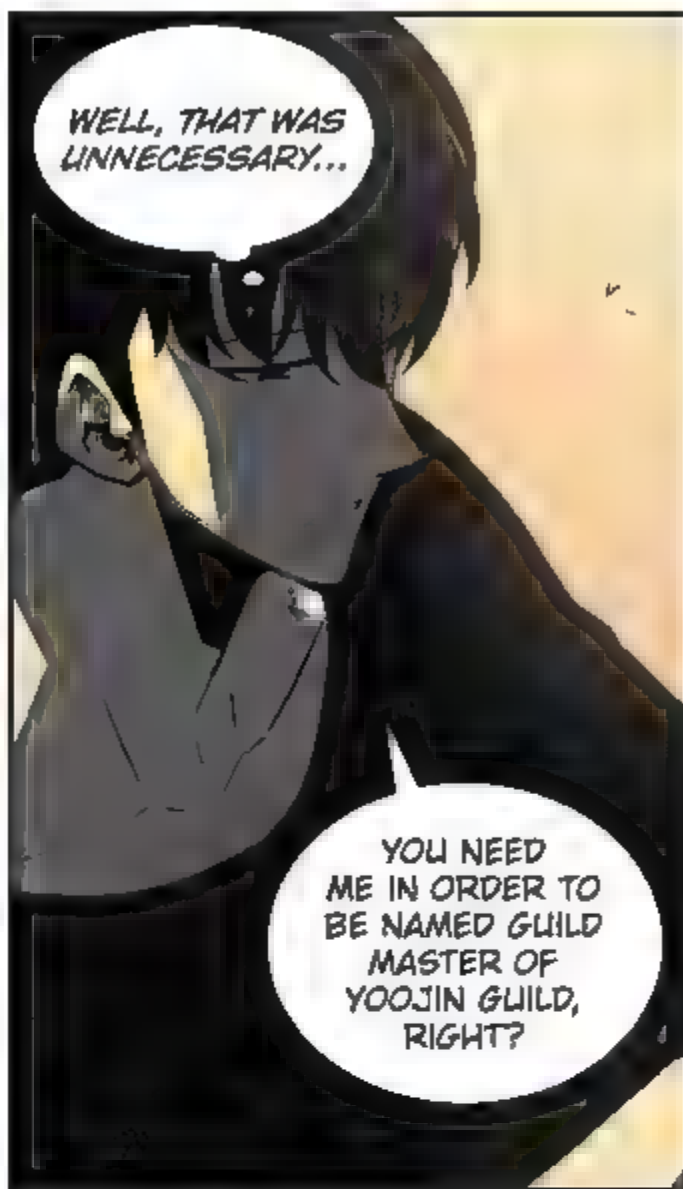


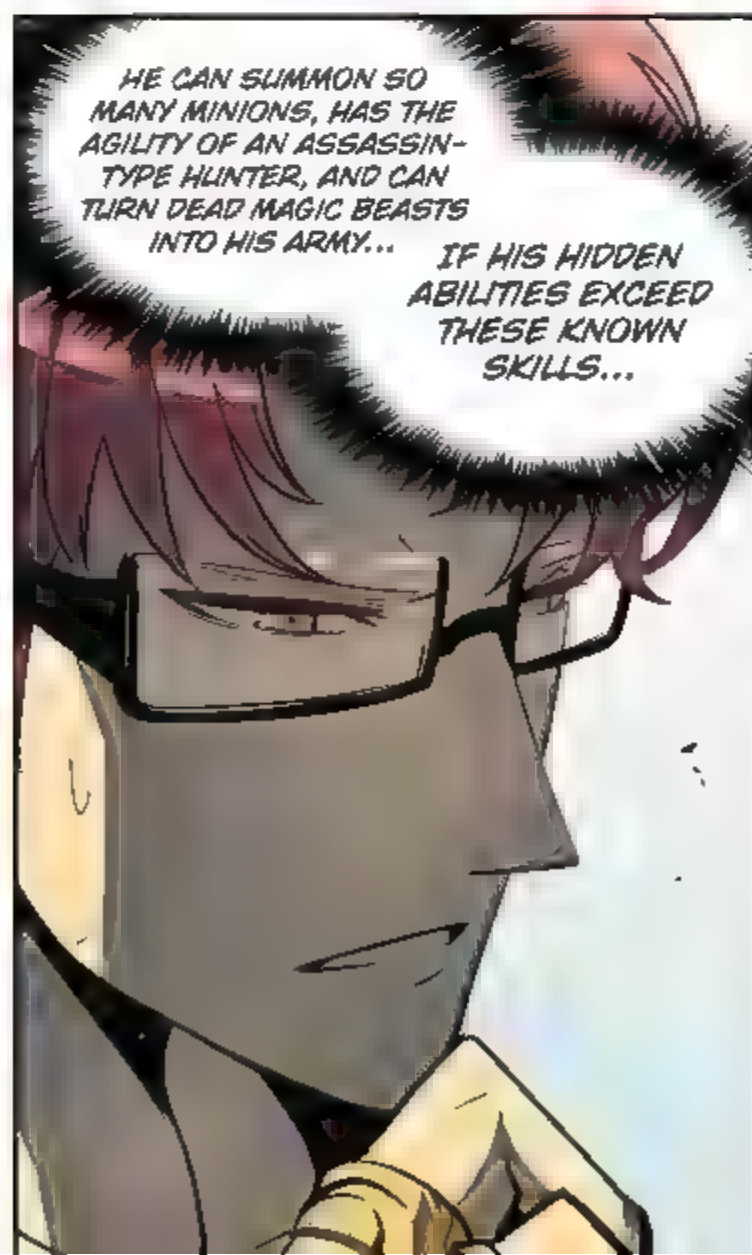
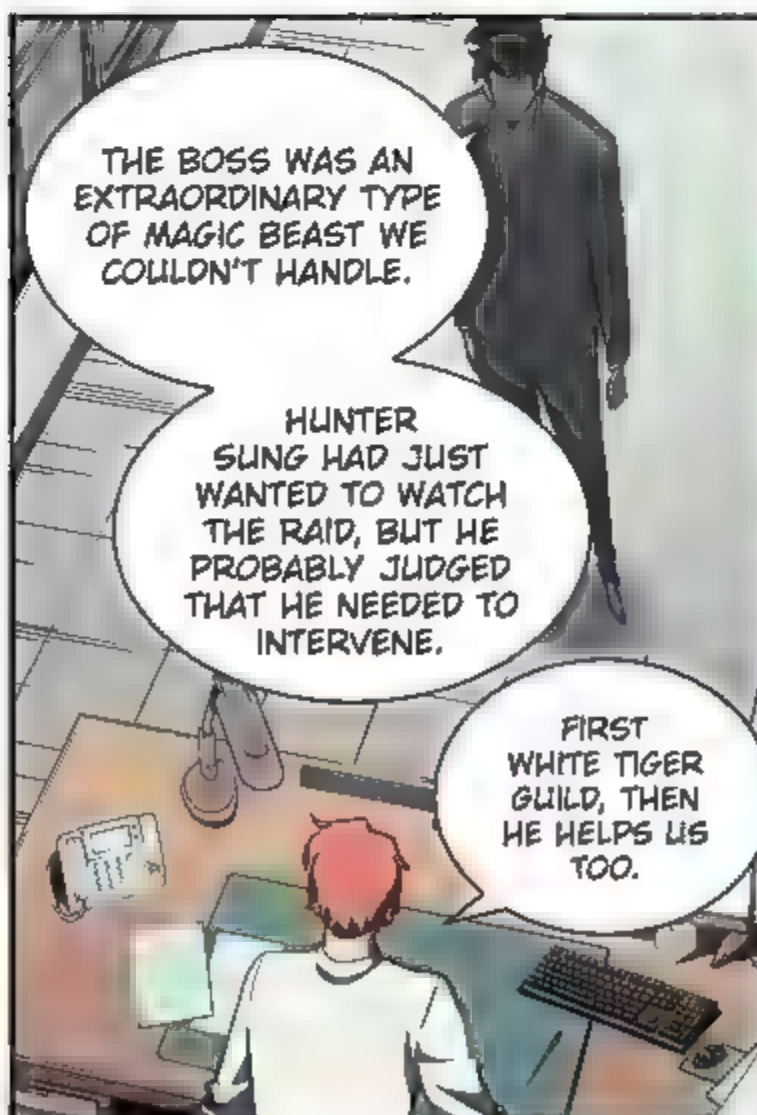
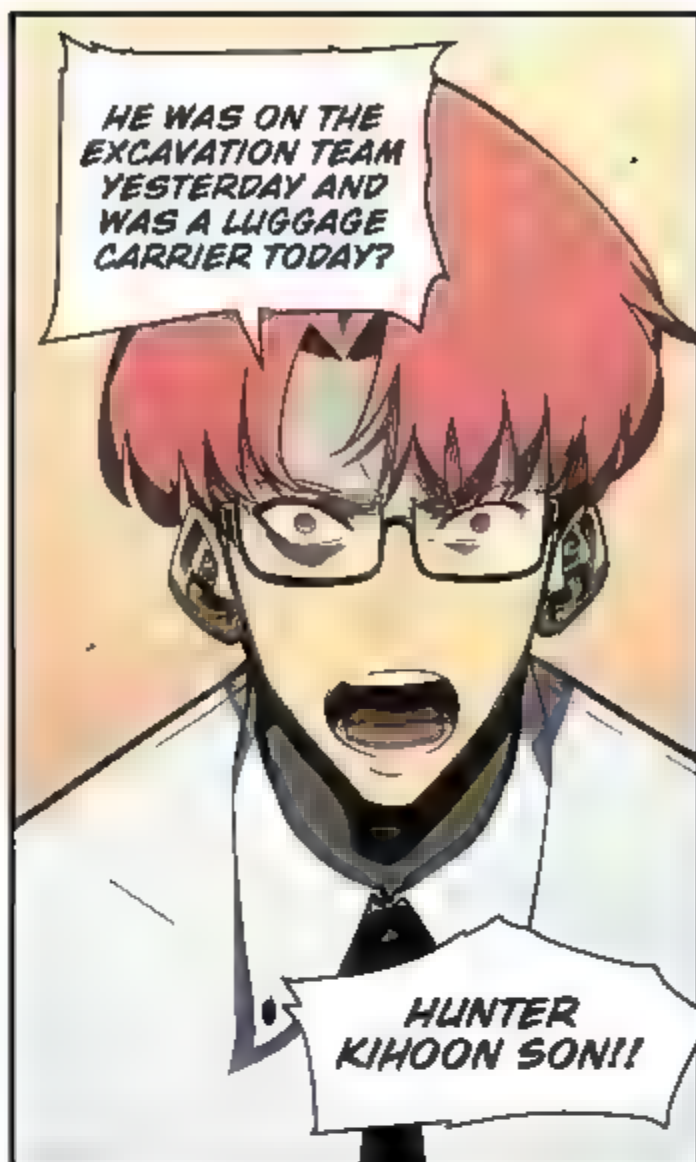
OH,
WELL...

...NEVER
MIND.











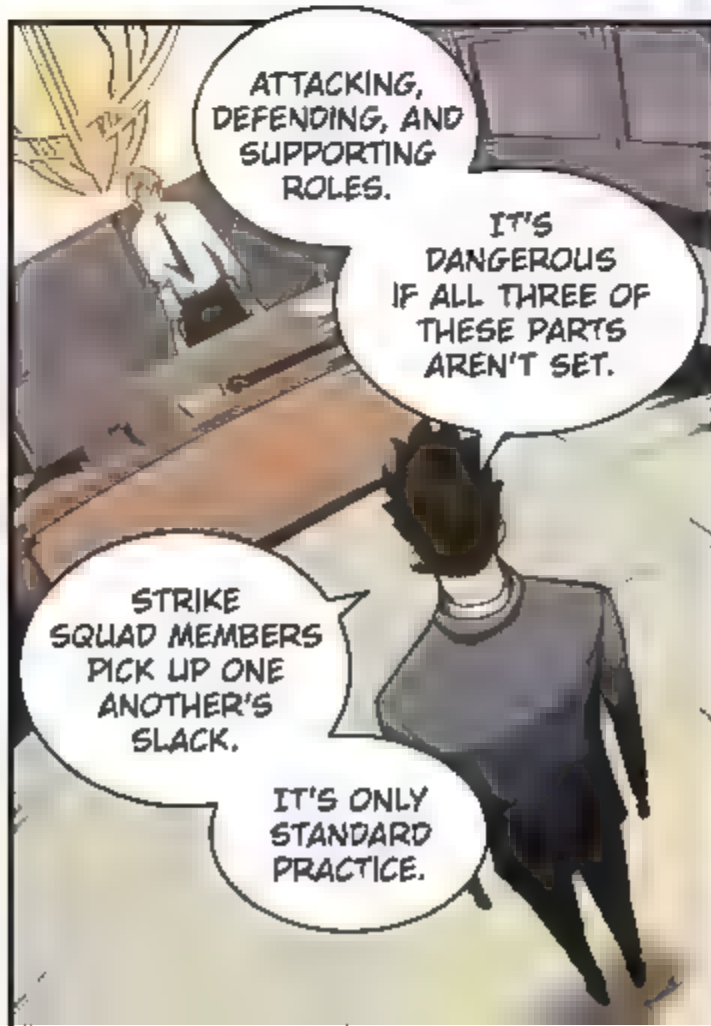
IF THIS
MAN IS THAT
STRONG...



...HOW WOULD
YOU SAY
HE COMPARES
TO ME?



DURING A
RAID, EACH HUNTER
HAS A ROLE TO PLAY
THAT COMPLEMENTS
ONE ANOTHER'S
SHORTCOMINGS.

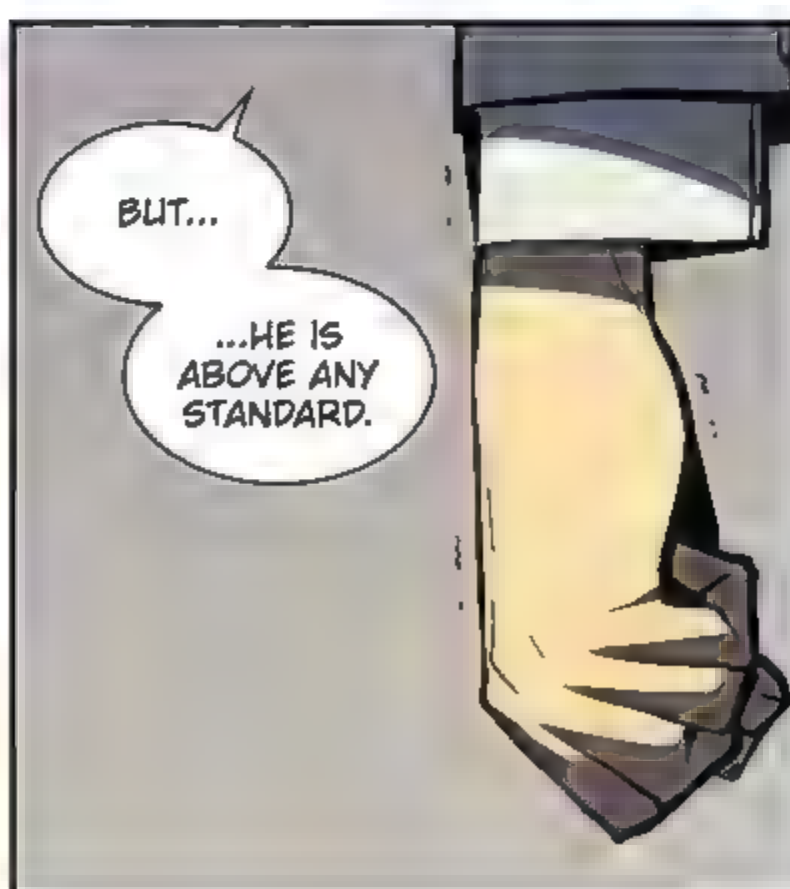


ATTACKING,
DEFENDING, AND
SUPPORTING
ROLES.

IT'S
DANGEROUS
IF ALL THREE OF
THESE PARTS
AREN'T SET.

STRIKE
SQUAD MEMBERS
PICK UP ONE
ANOTHER'S
SLACK.

IT'S ONLY
STANDARD
PRACTICE.

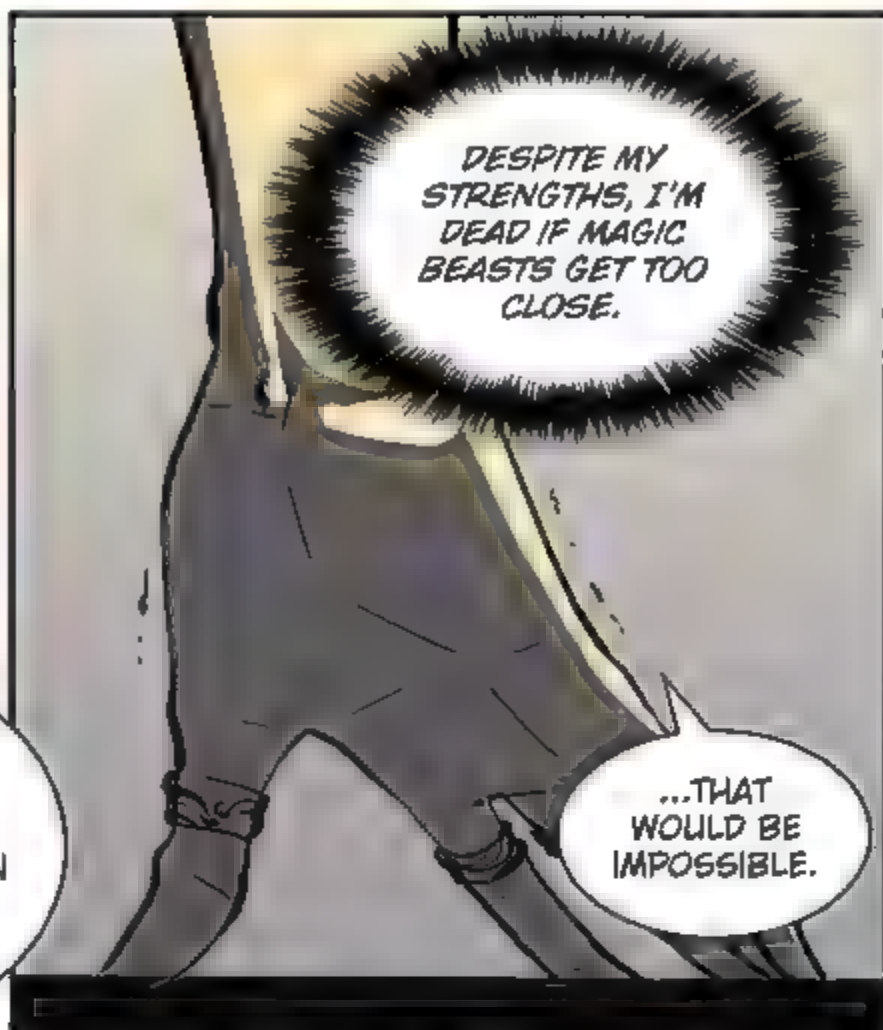


BUT...

...HE IS
ABOVE ANY
STANDARD.



CAN
YOU CLEAR A
HIGHER-LEVEL
A-RANK DUNGEON
BY YOURSELF,
SIR?



DESPITE MY
STRENGTHS, I'M
DEAD IF MAGIC
BEASTS GET TOO
CLOSE.

...THAT
WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE.



AND THEY
CALL ME "THE
ULTIMATE HUNTER."
SOUNDS SILLY
NOW.



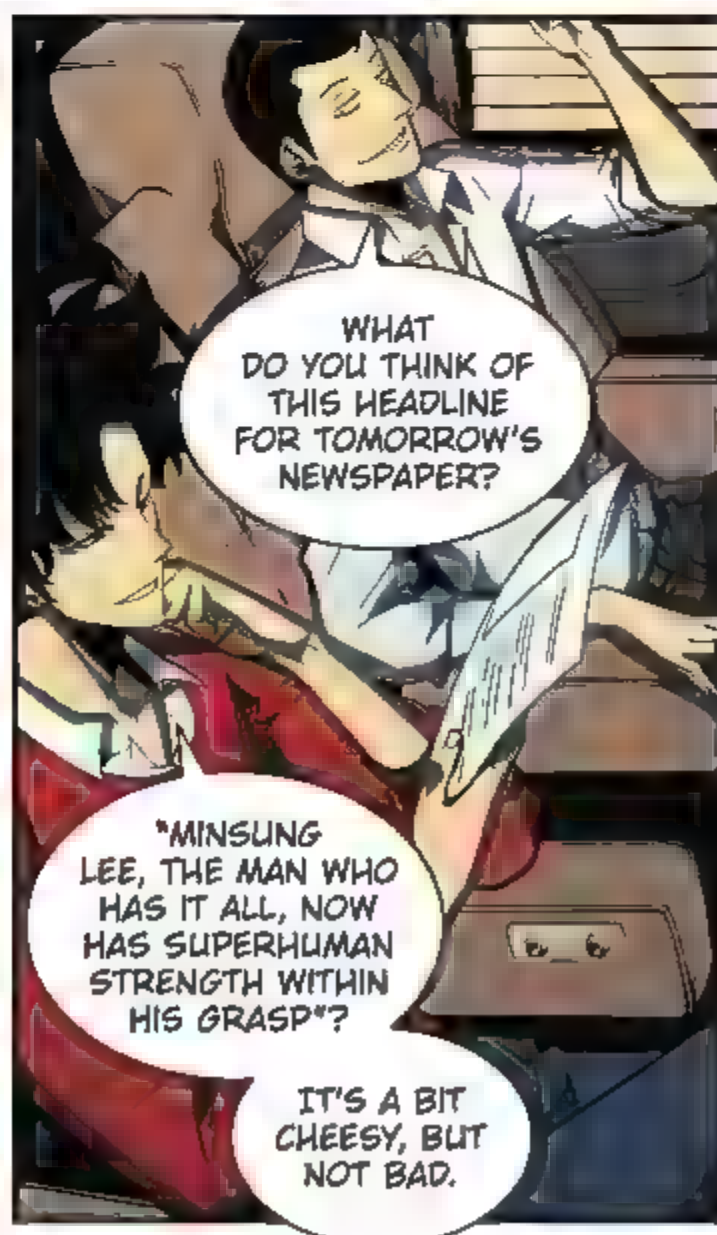
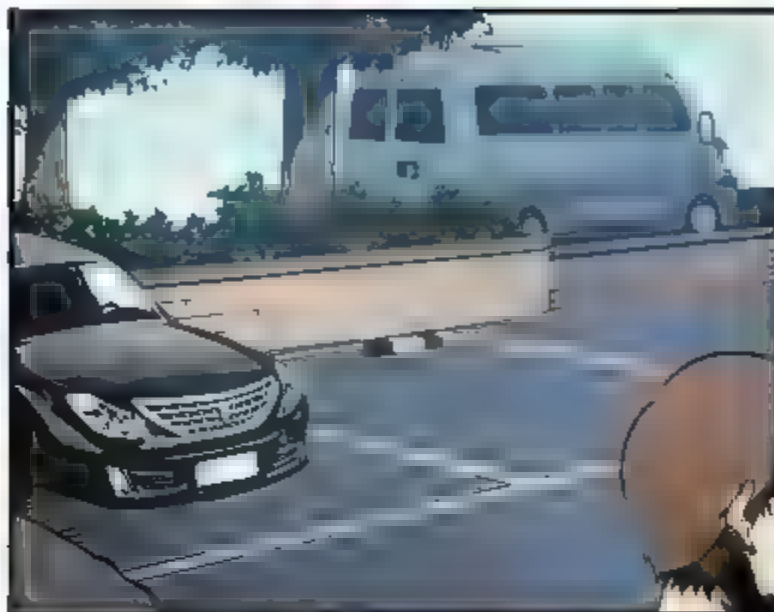
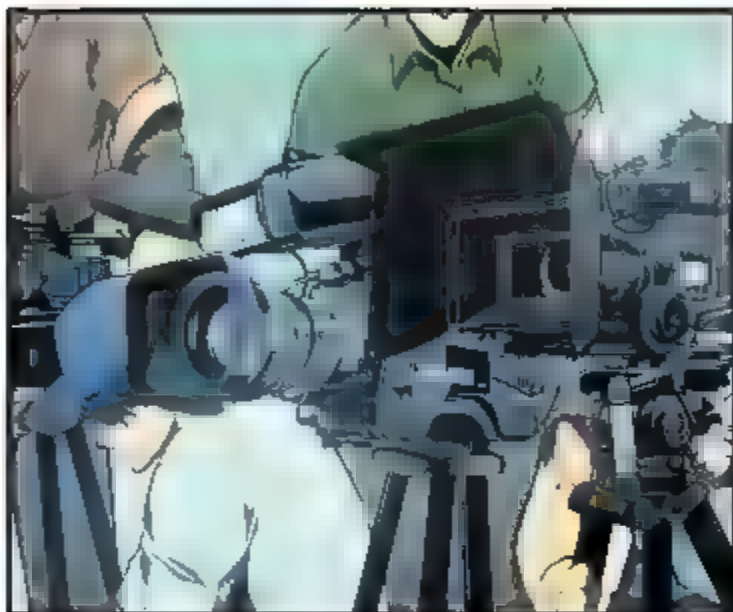
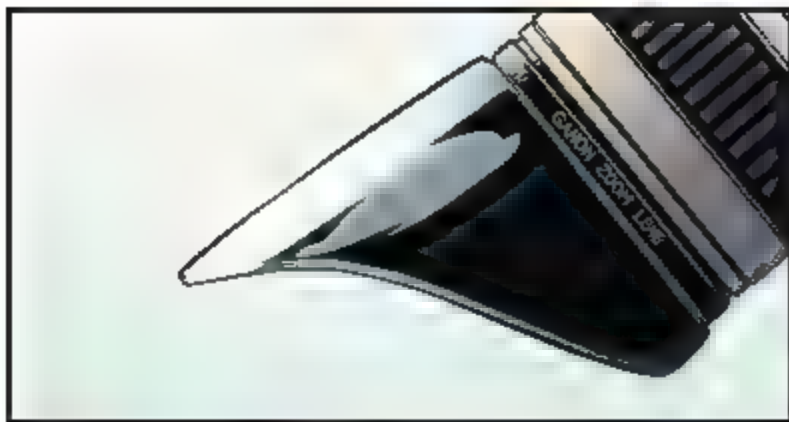
PRESIDENT
CHOI, IT'S NOT MY
PLACE TO TELL YOU
HOW TO RUN THE
GUILD, BUT...

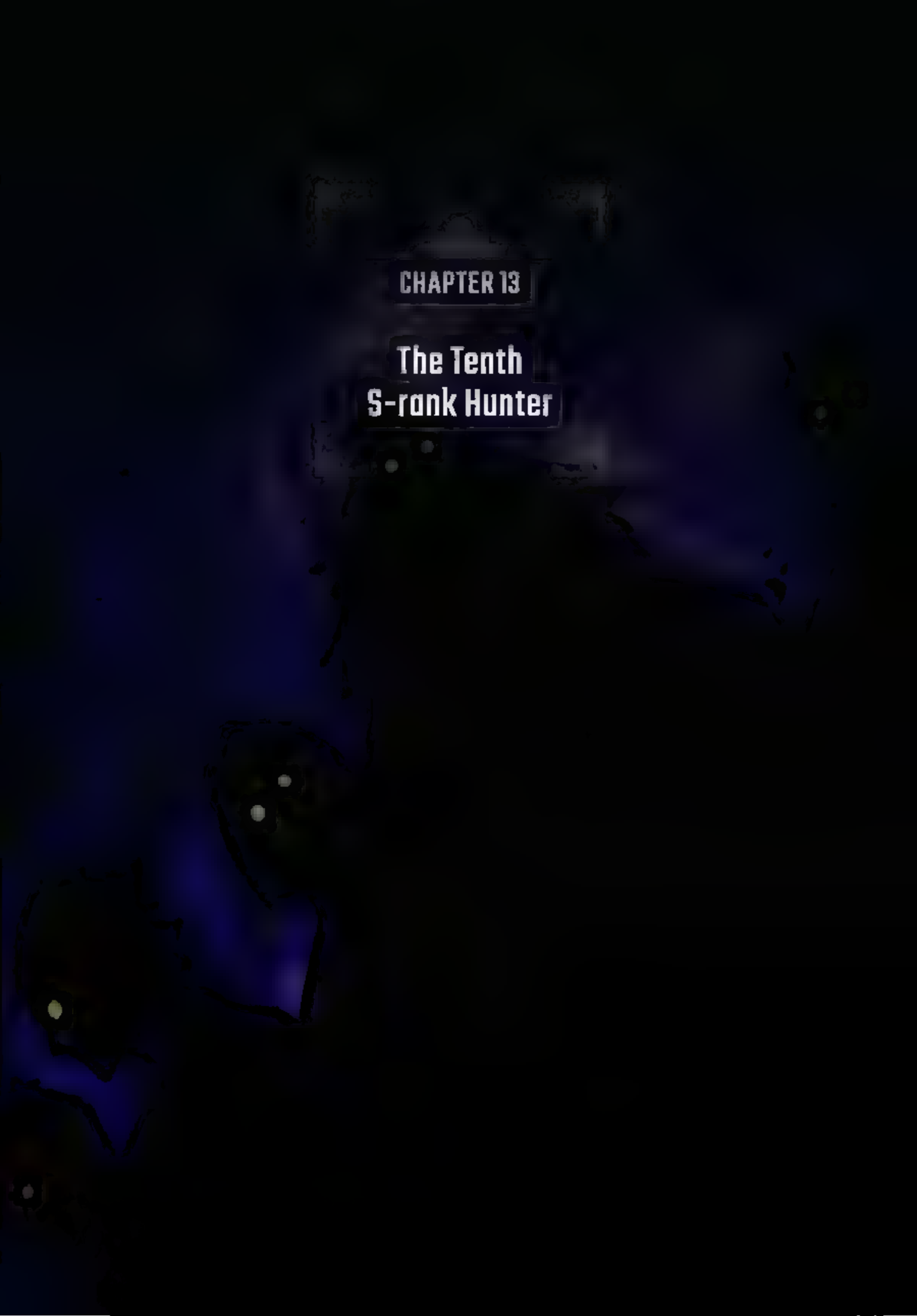


...PLEASE...

...RECRUIT
HUNTER SUNG.

...I WILL DO
MY BEST.



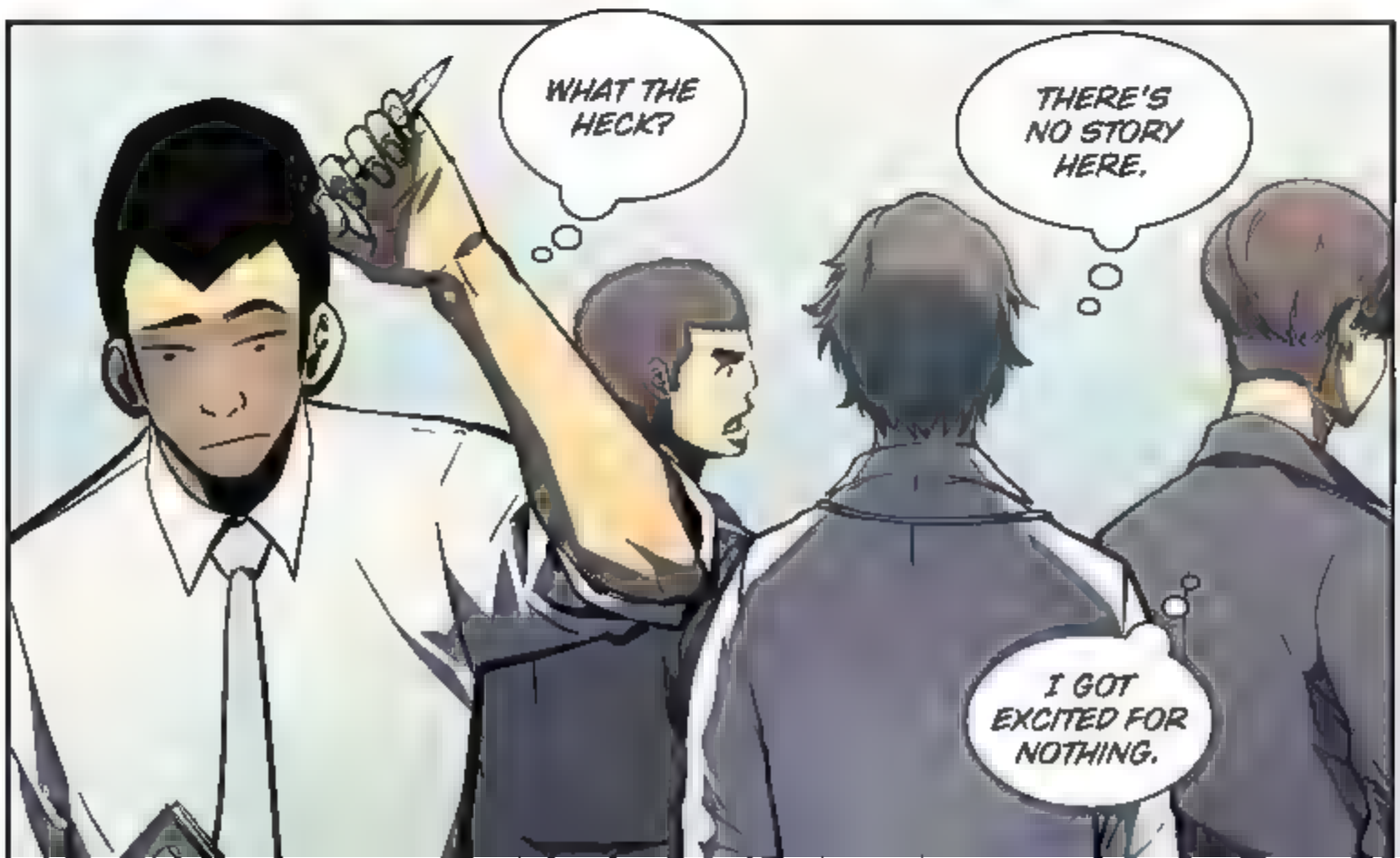


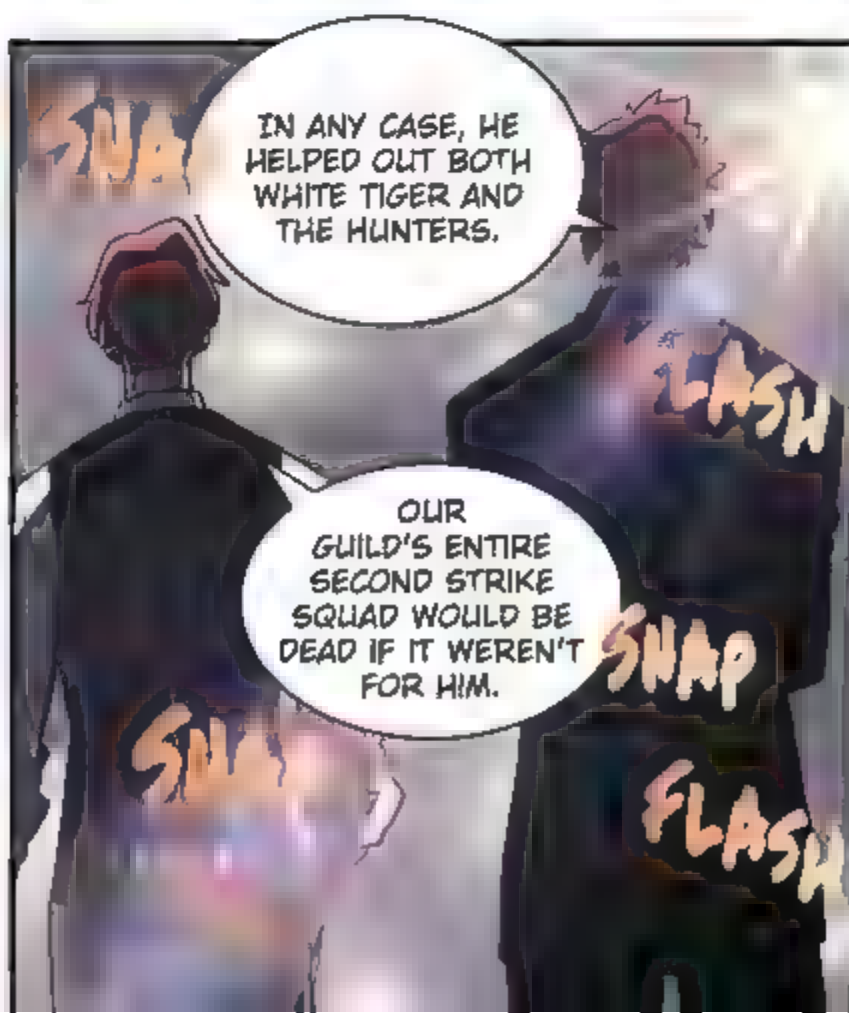
CHAPTER 13

The Tenth S-rank Hunter

Solo
Leveling















ARE THE
REPORTERS
ALREADY
ON TO ME?

NO, IT DOESN'T
EVEN LOOK LIKE
THEY KNOW WHO
I AM.

BUT HOW AM
I SUPPOSED TO
GET INSIDE?



WHAT THE
HELL?

PUSH

PUSH

EXCUSE ME.
PARDON ME.

HEY, WHAT'S
WITH YOU?



WHOA!
WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?

BLOCK

DO YOU
WORK FOR
THE ASSO-
CIATION?

DON'T YOU
SEE ALL
THESE
REPORTERS
HERE?

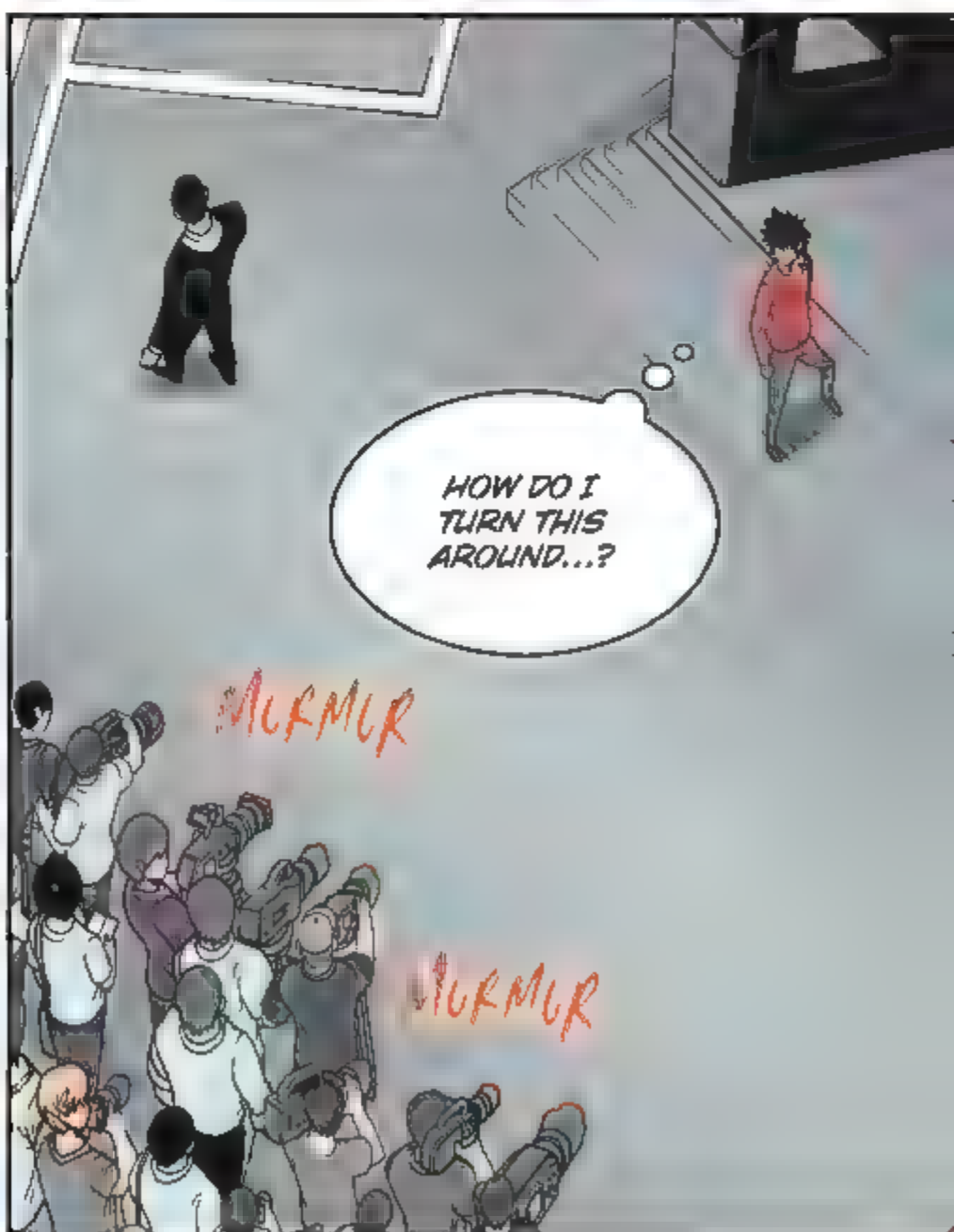
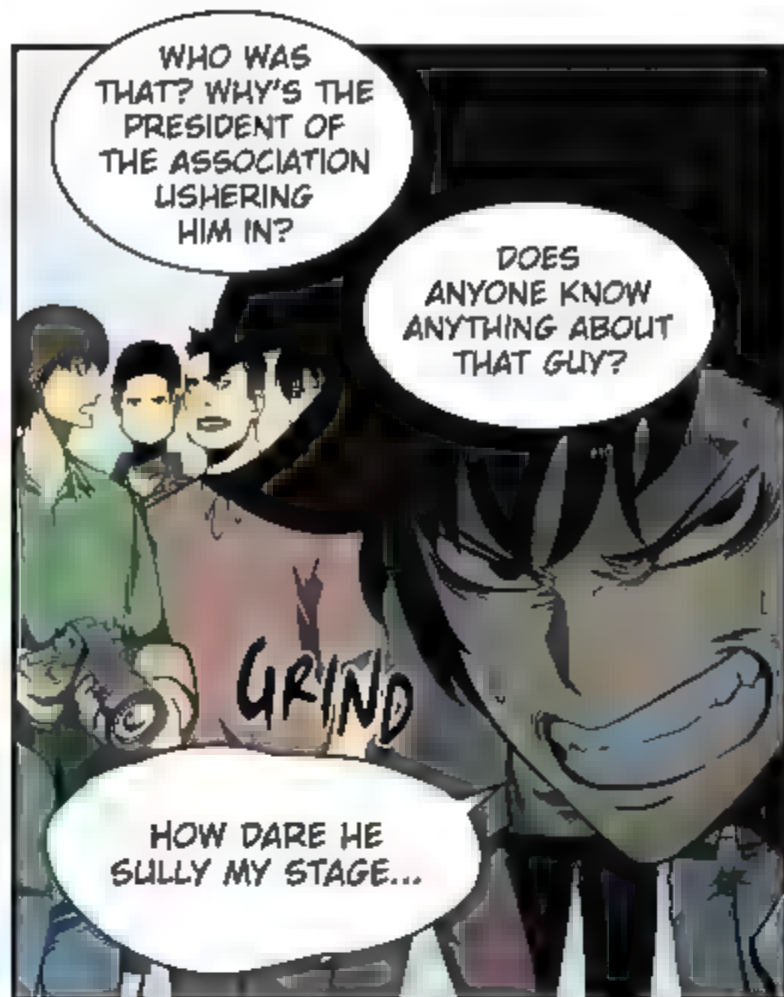


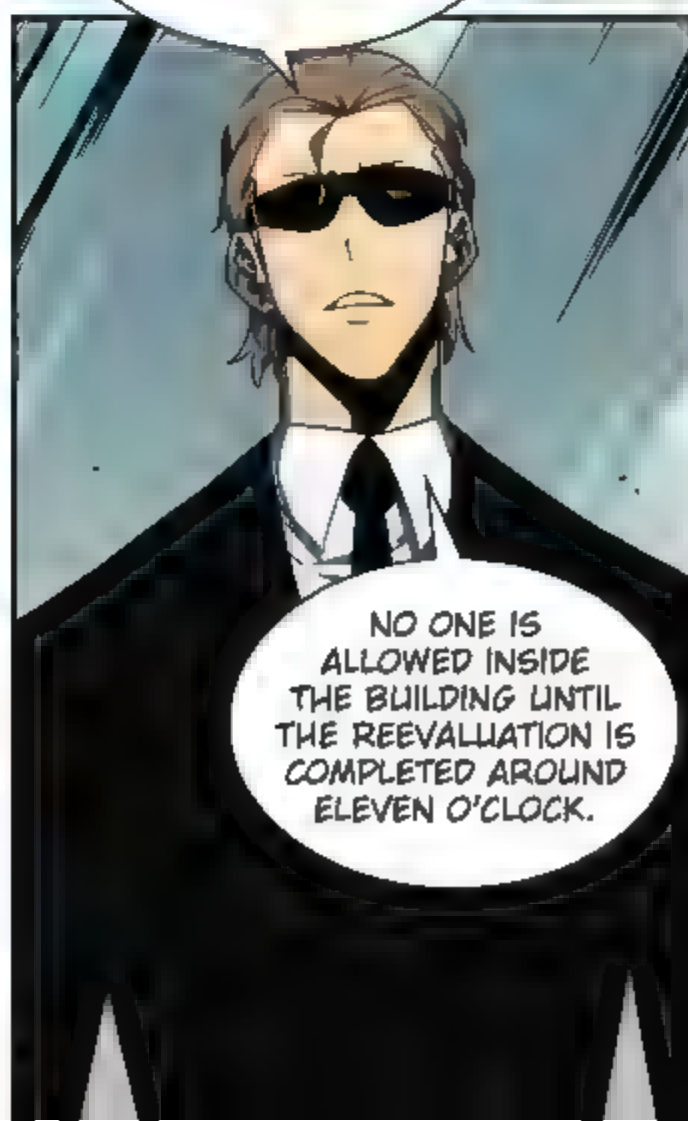
YOU CAN'T
COME THIS
WAY!

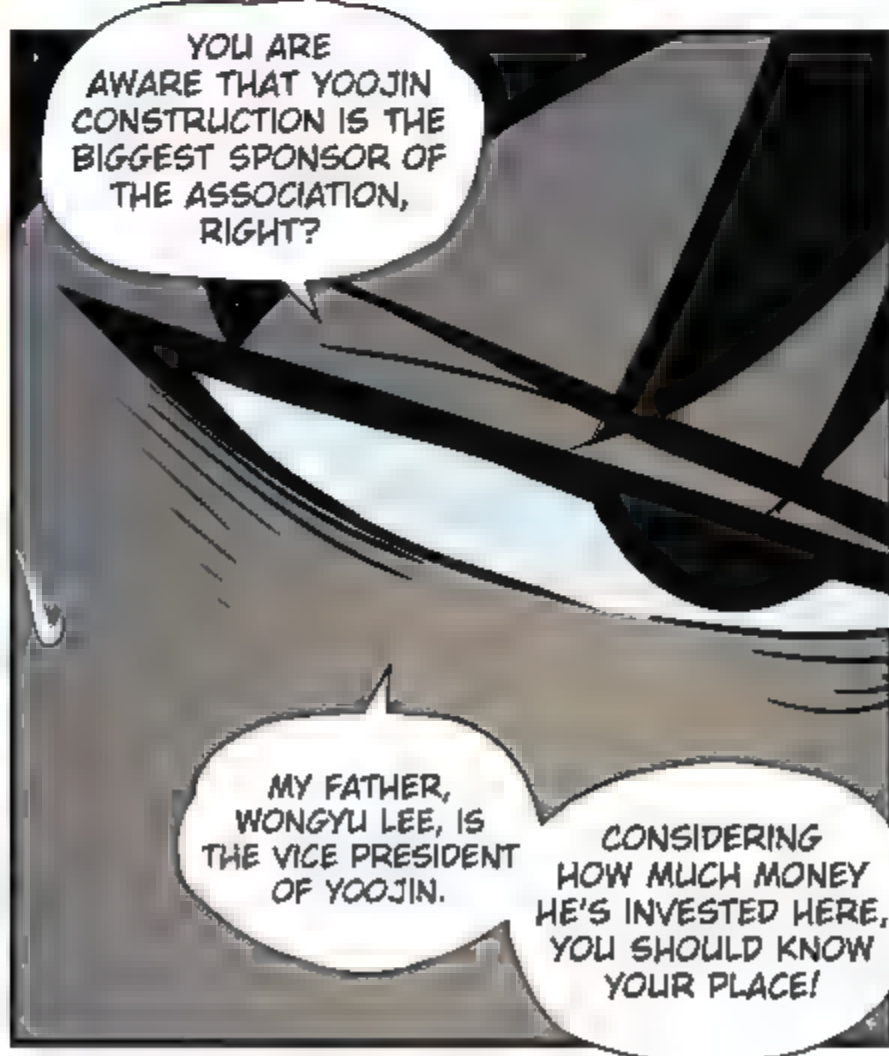
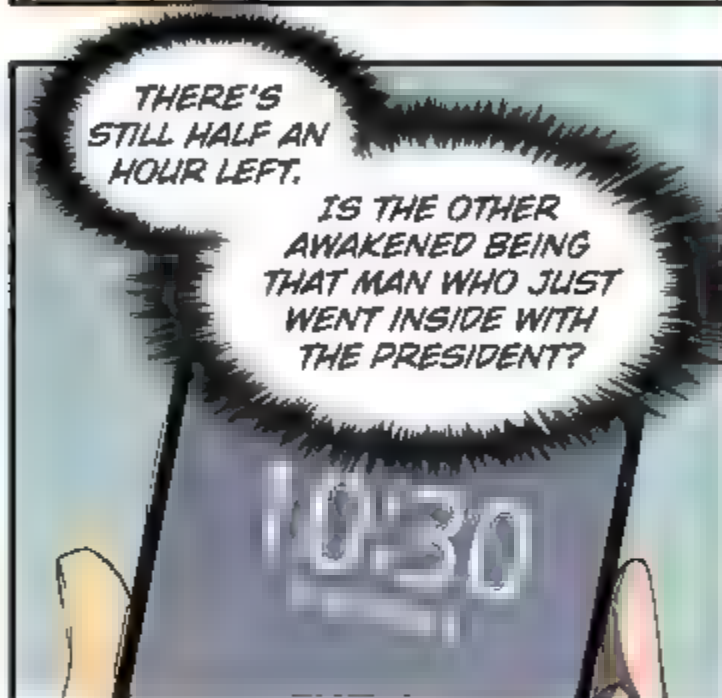
I HAVE
BUSINESS
HERE.

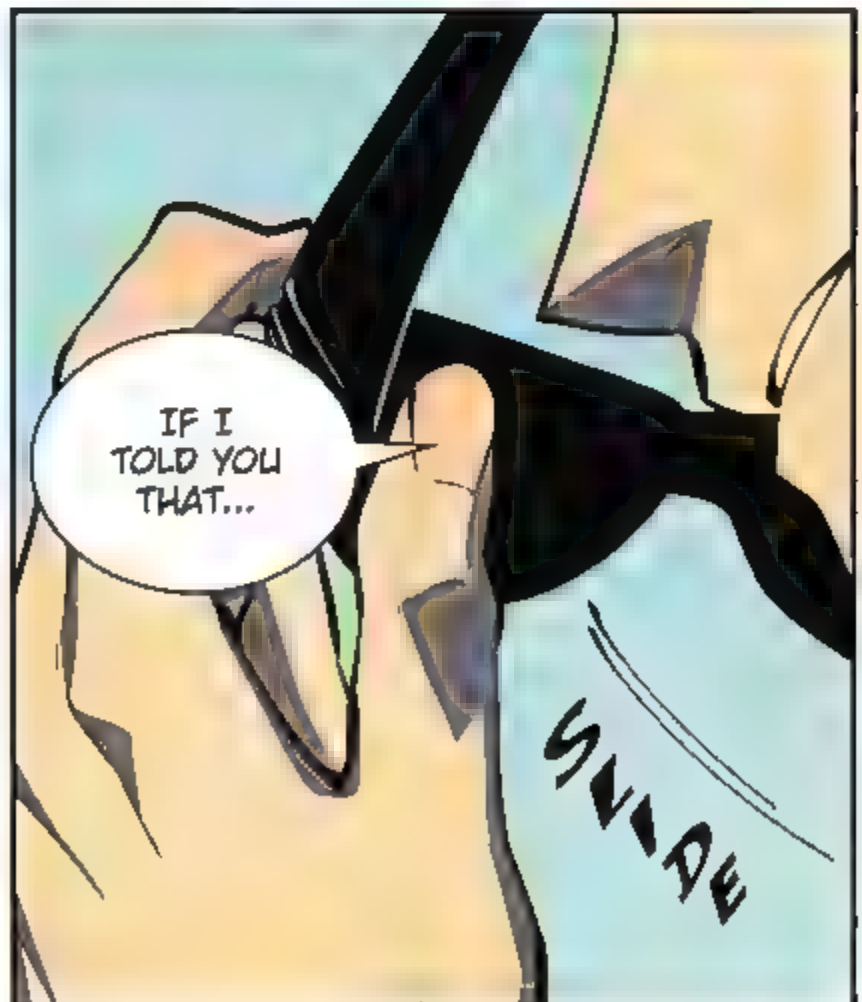
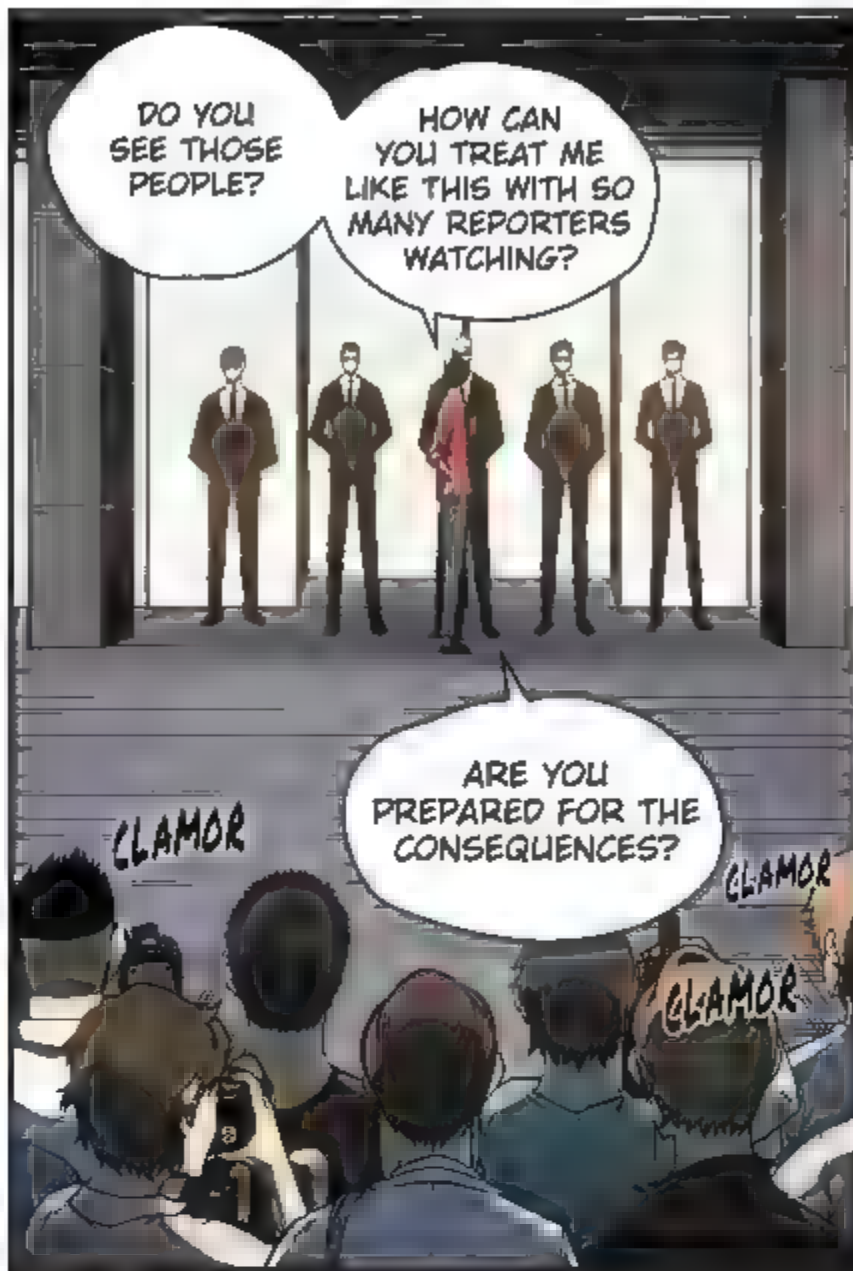
YOU CAN'T
DO THAT NOW.
GO BACK.

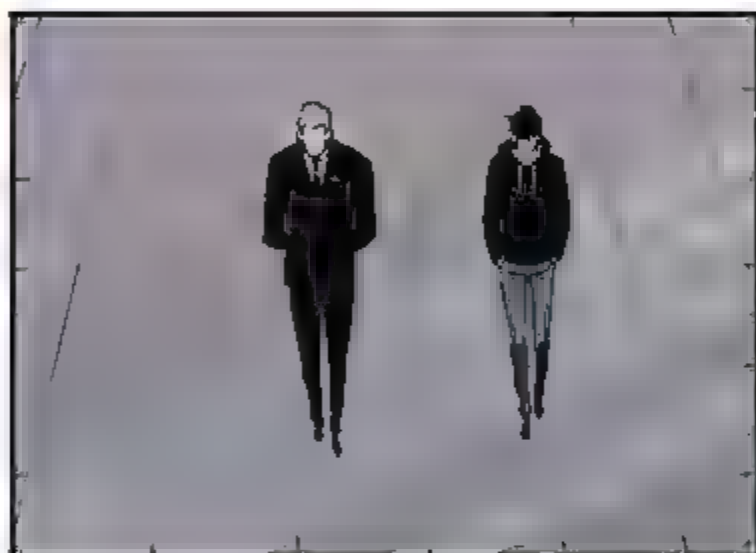
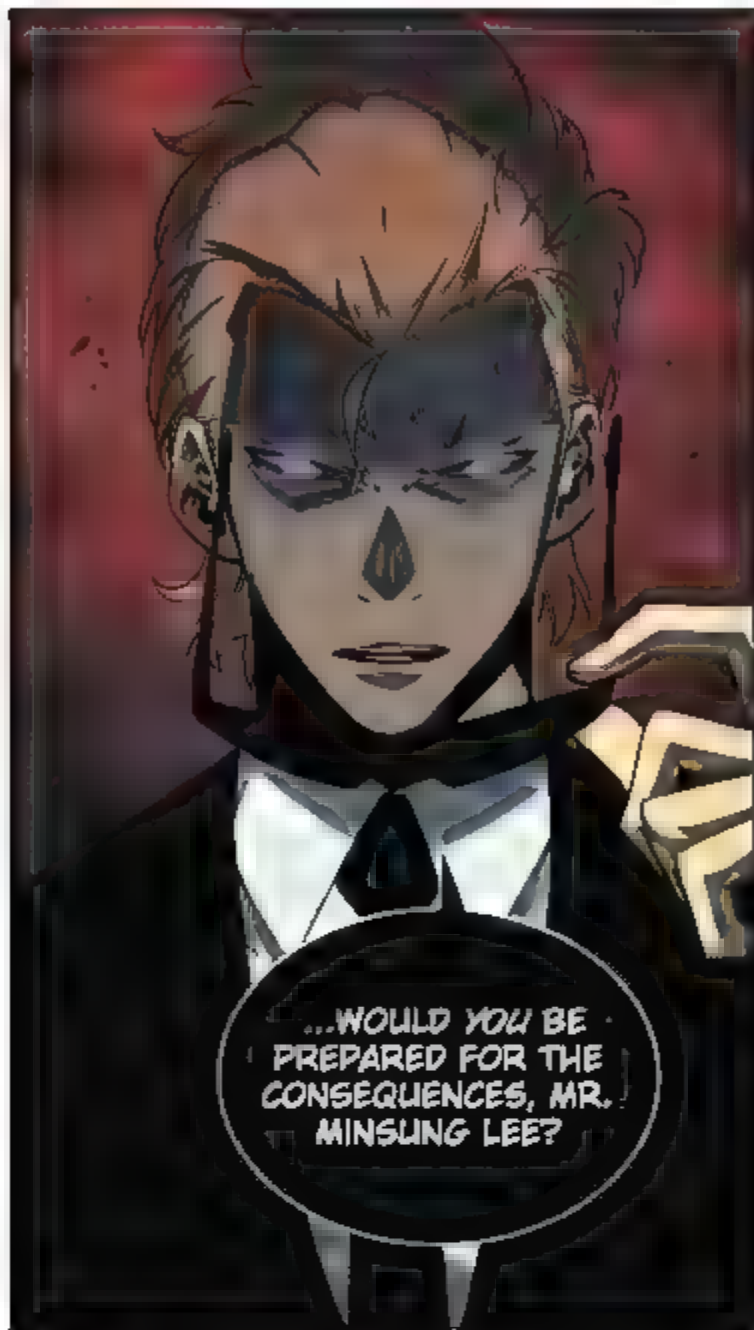


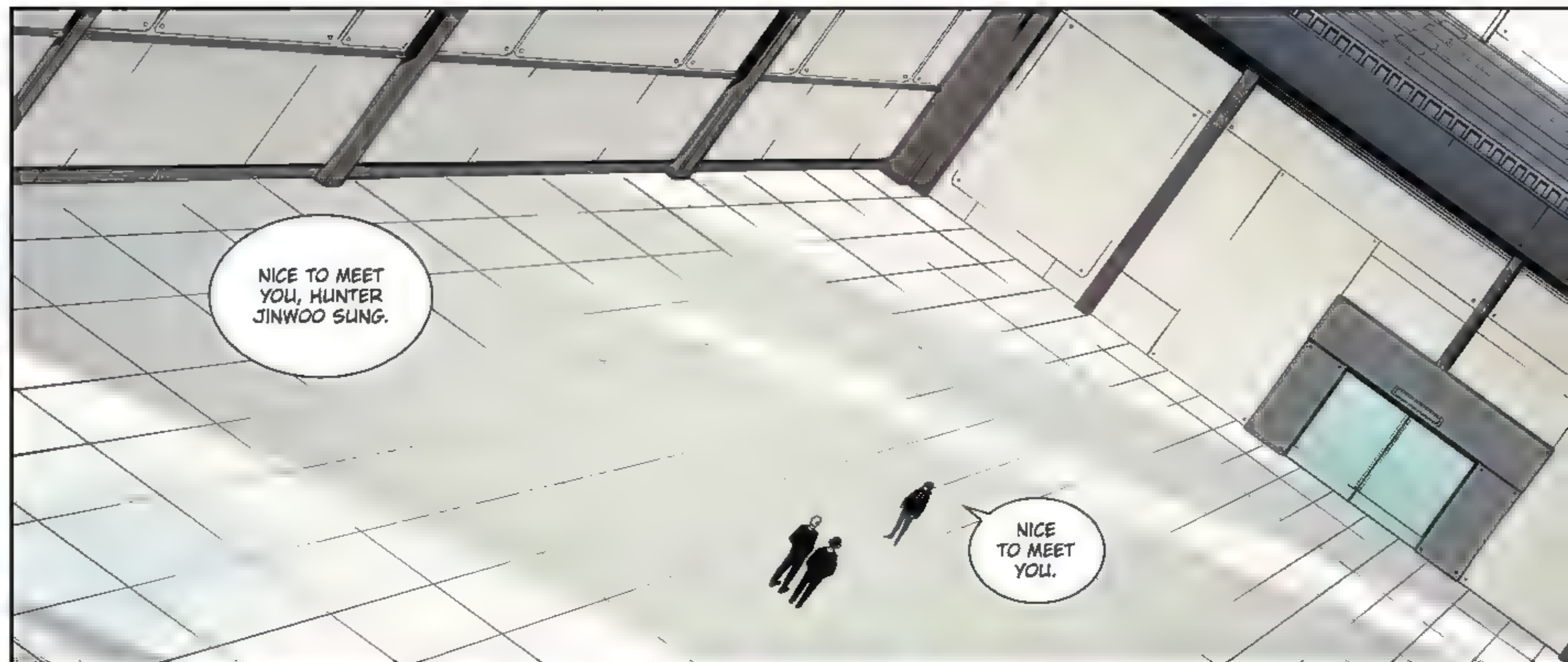


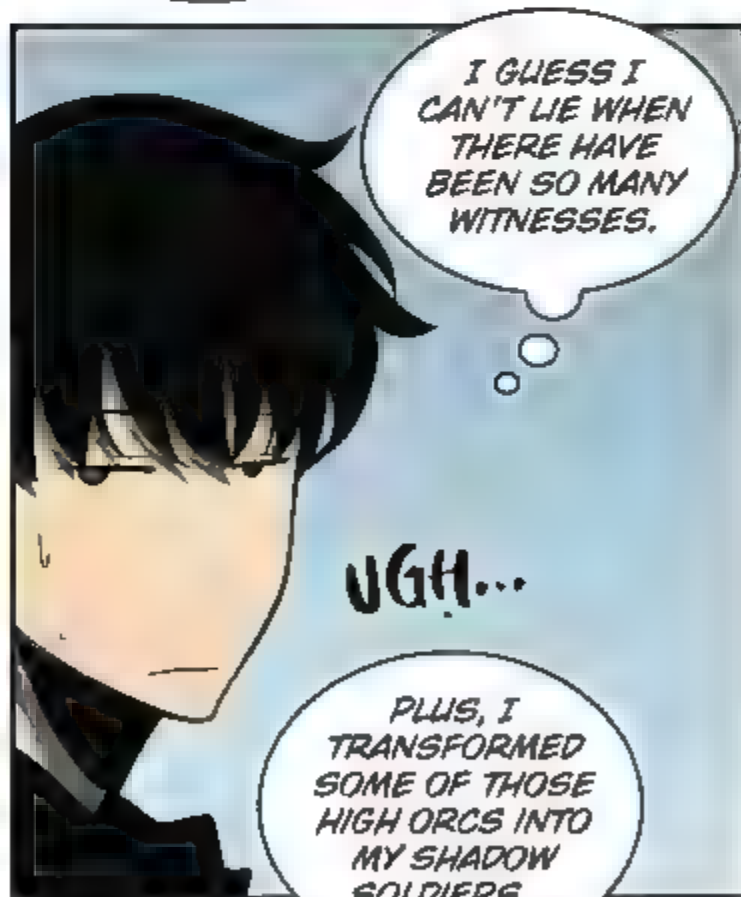
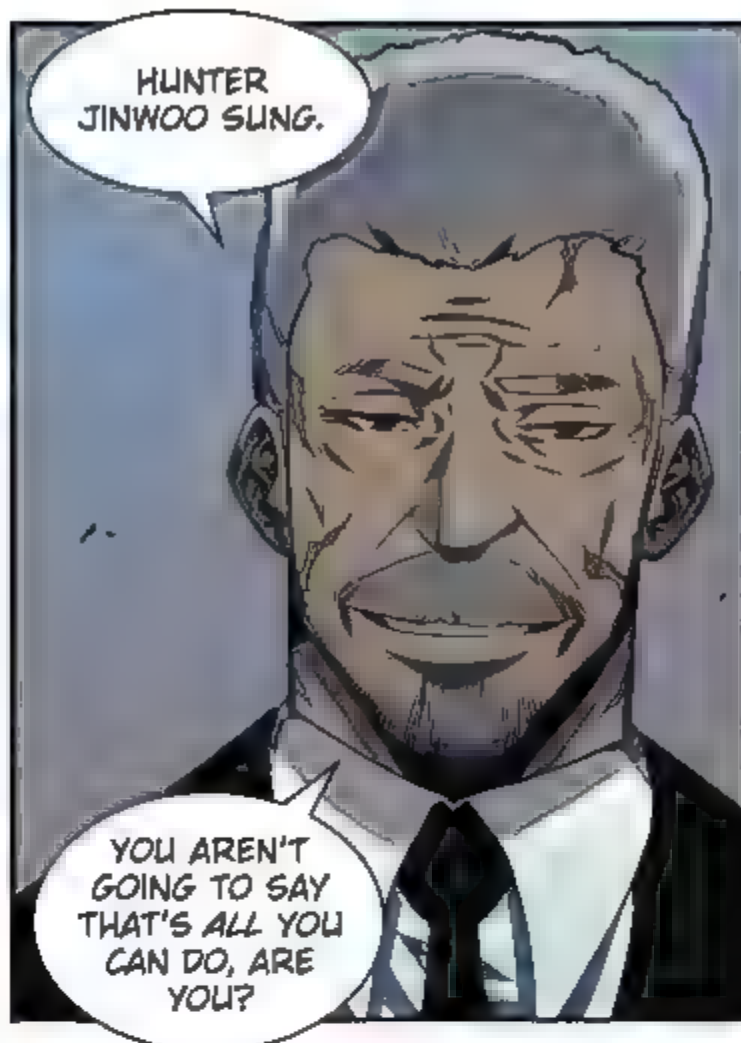
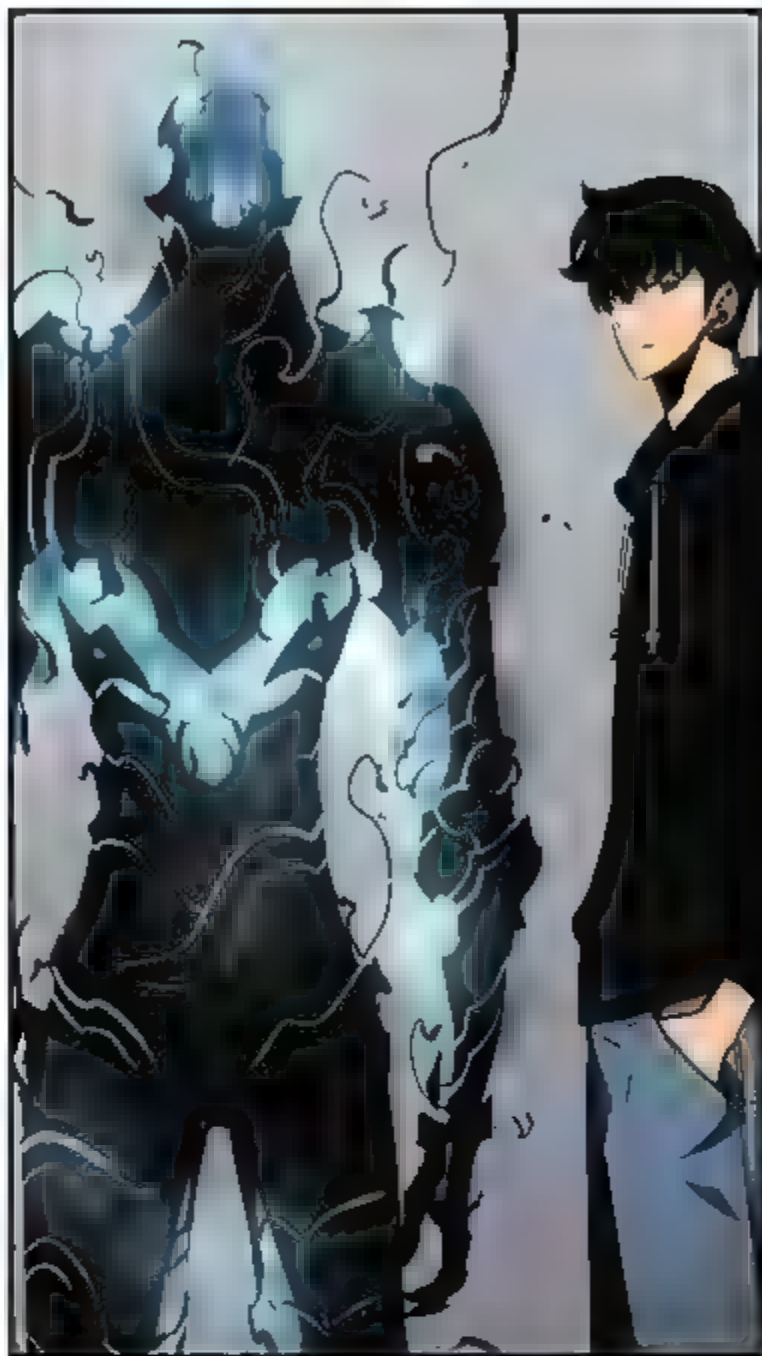


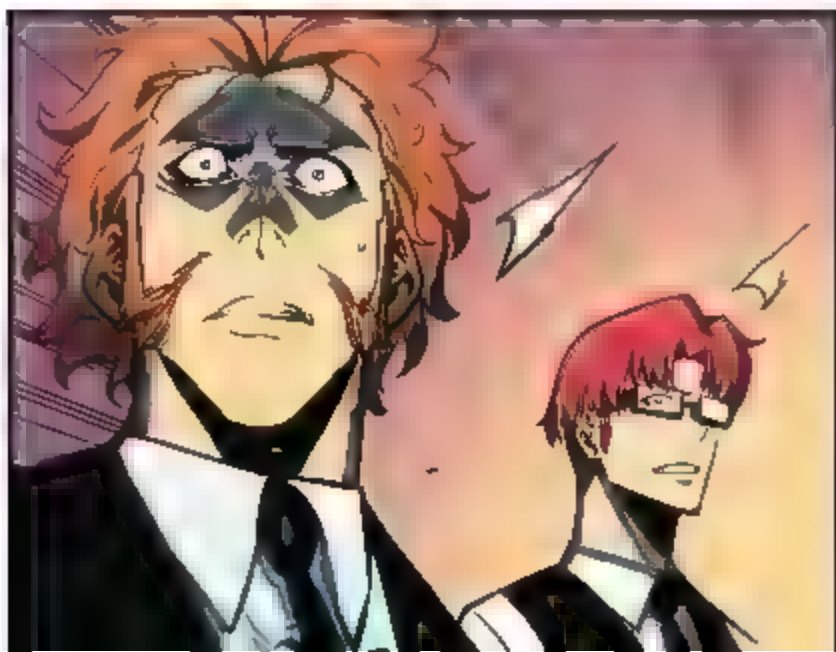
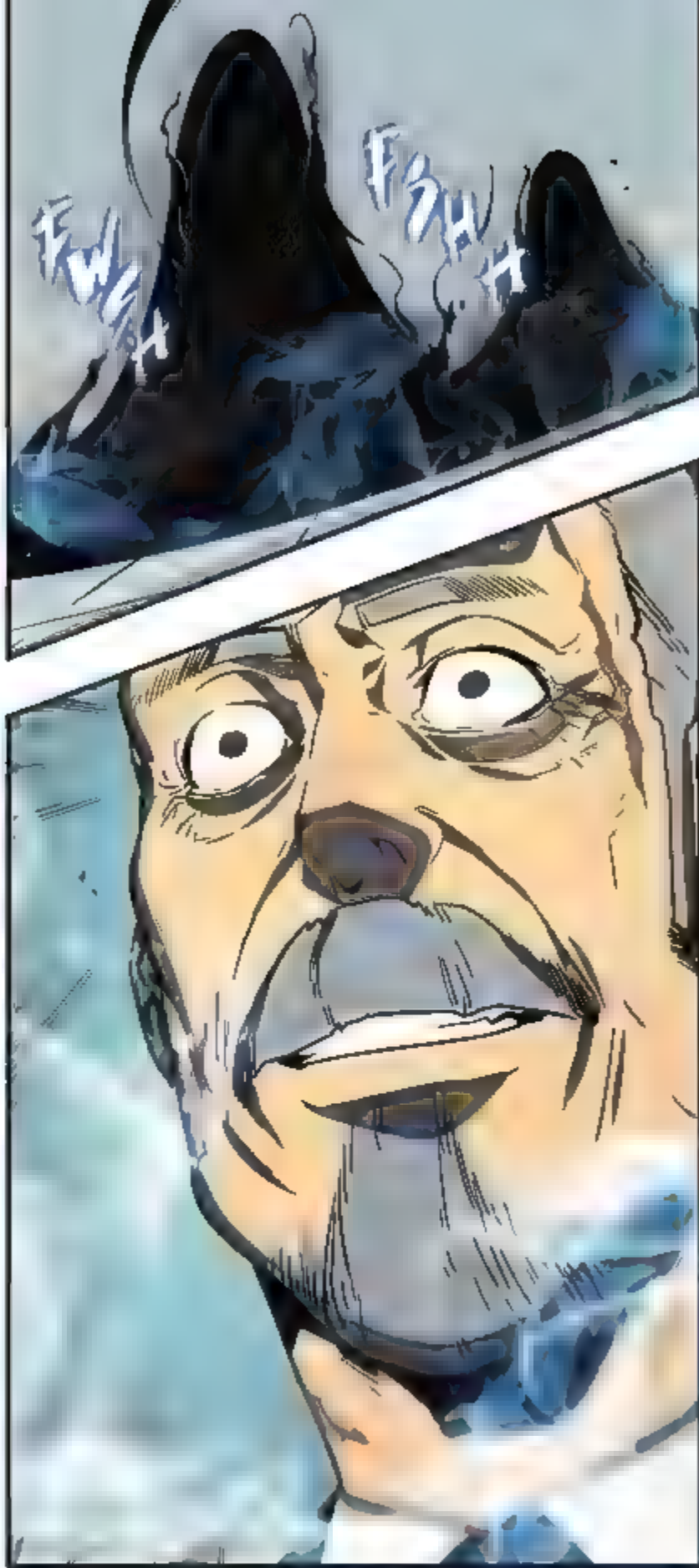


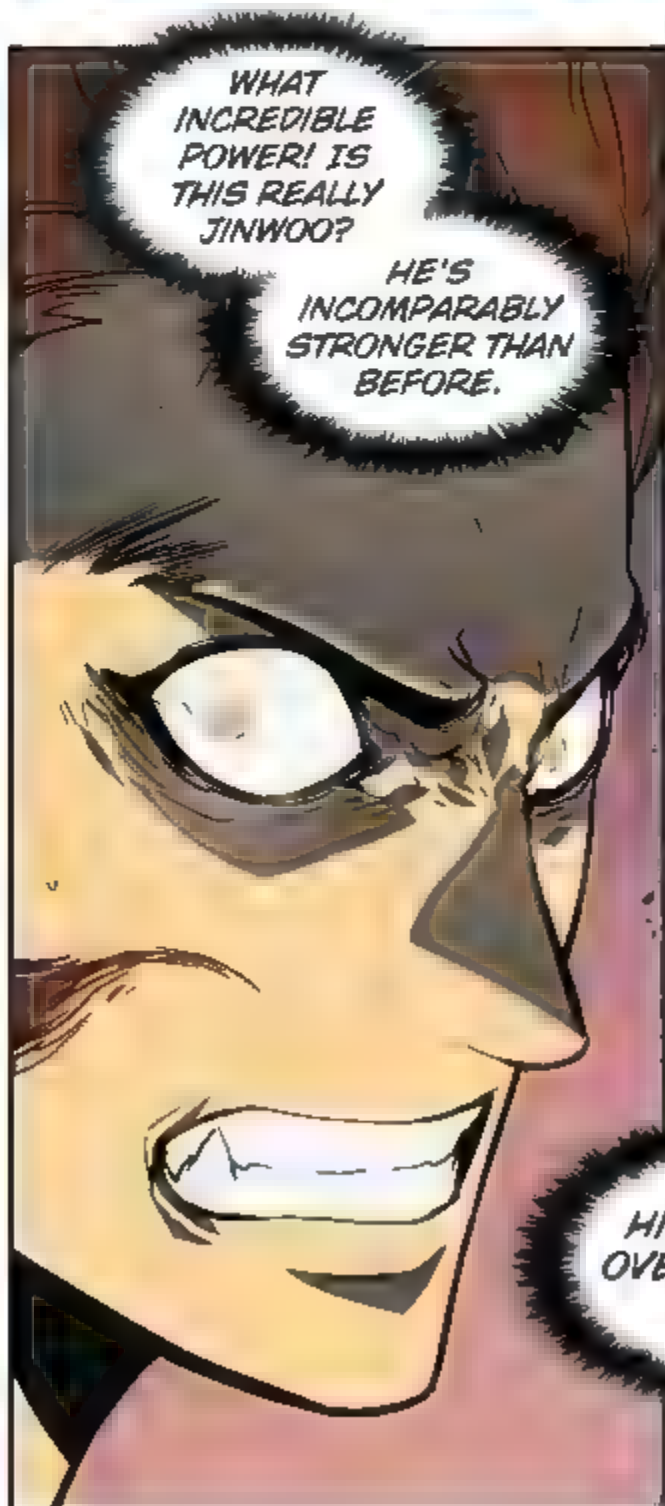


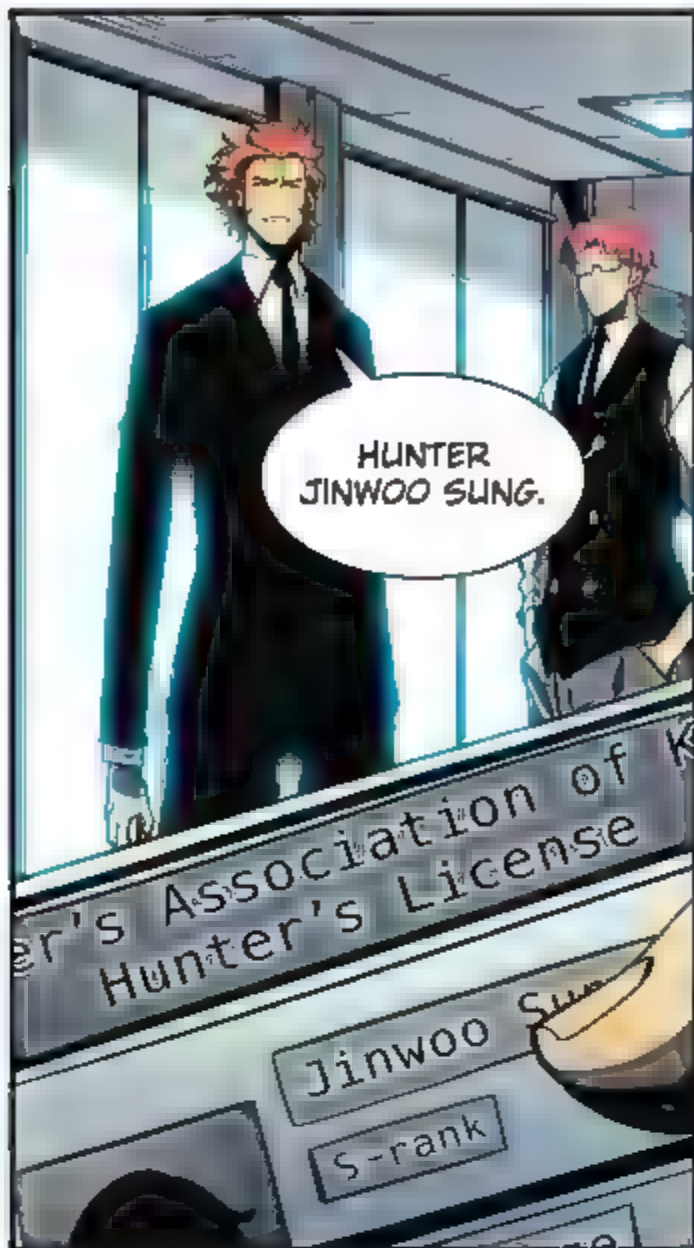




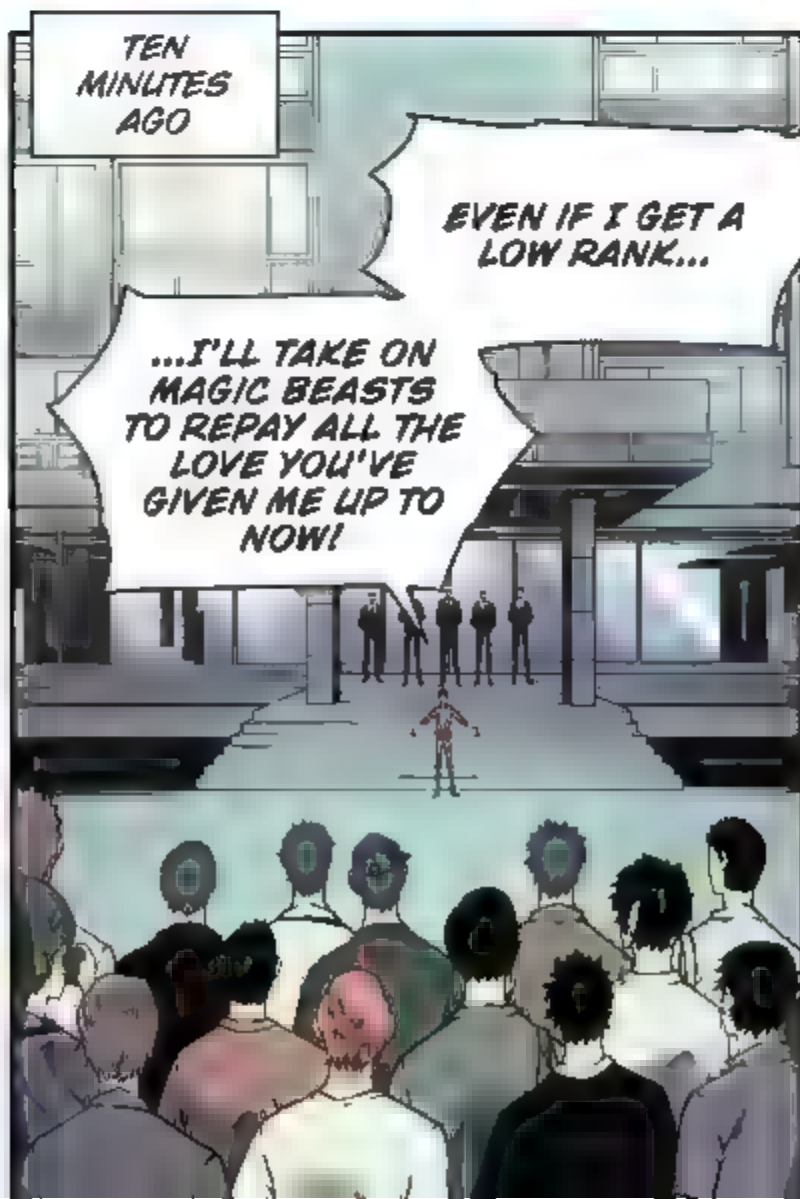


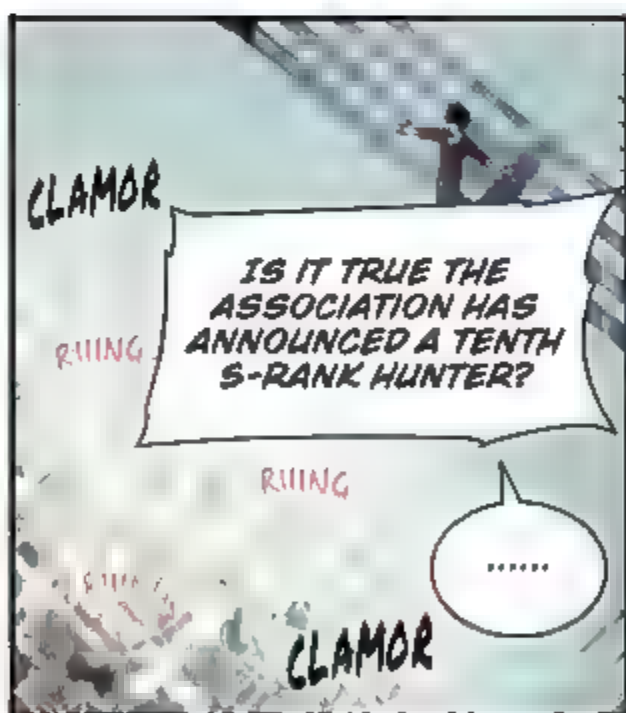
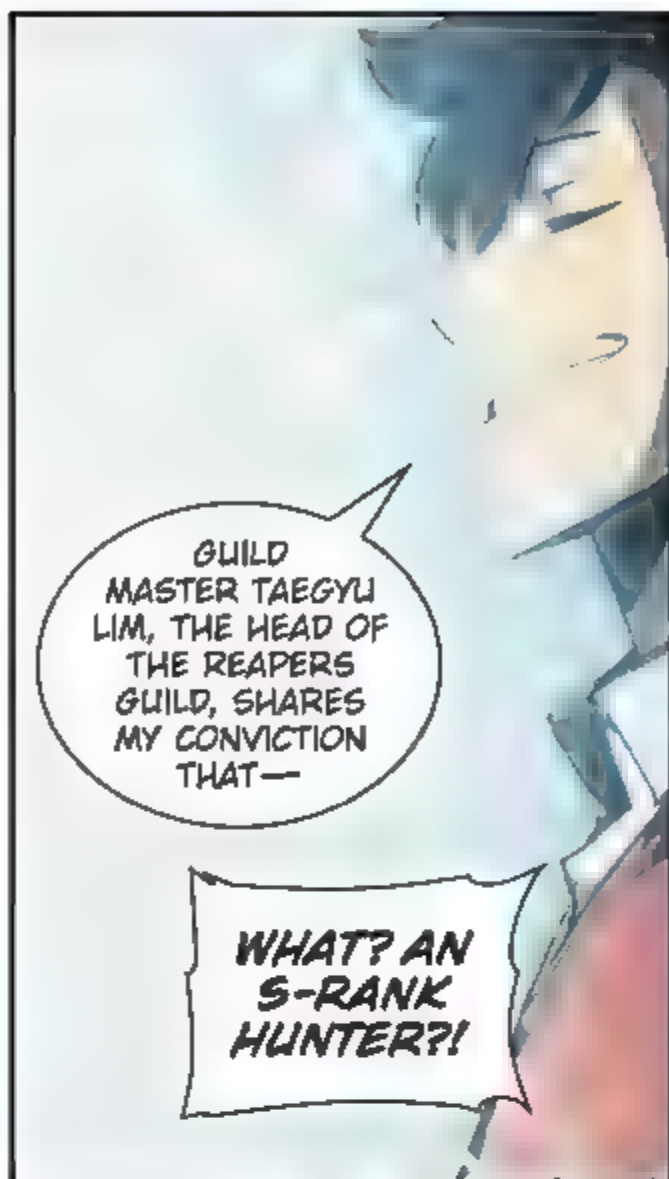




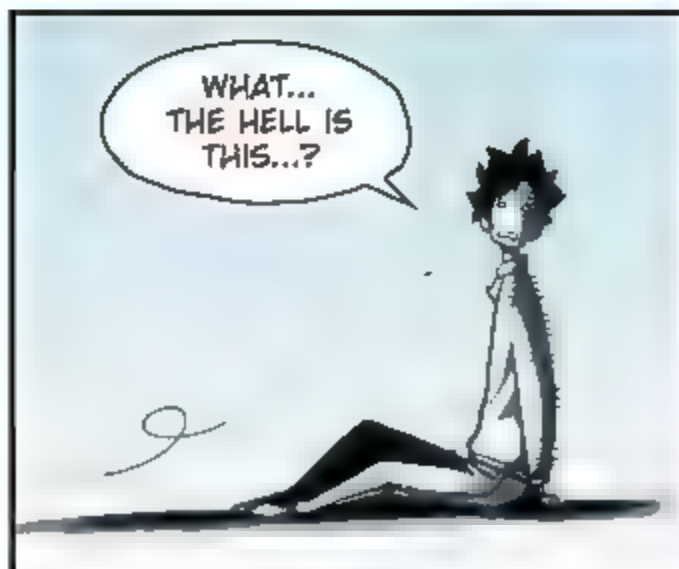




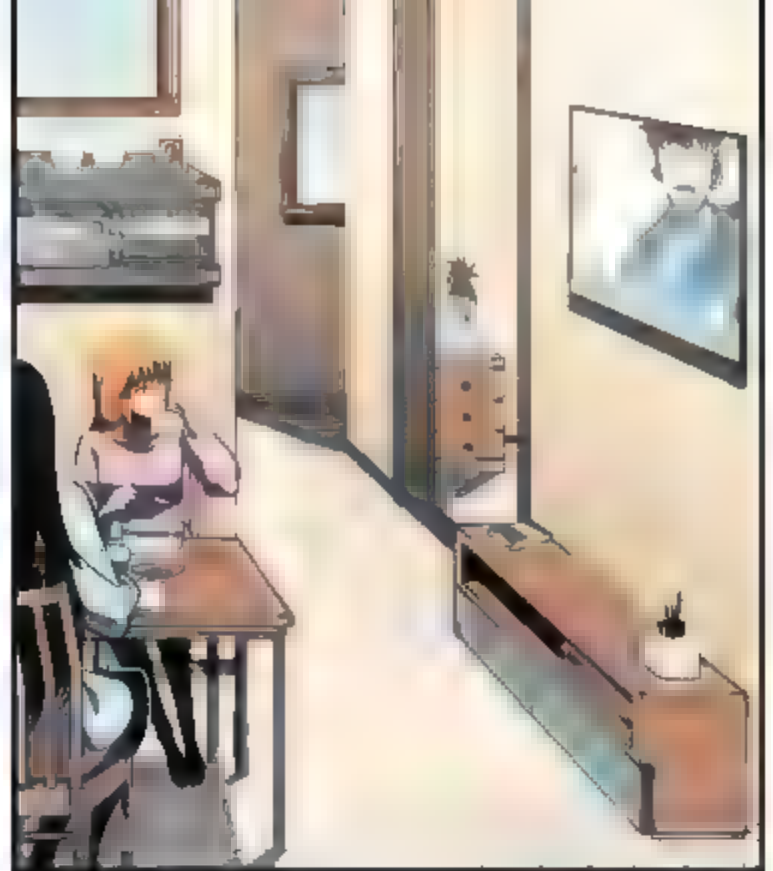








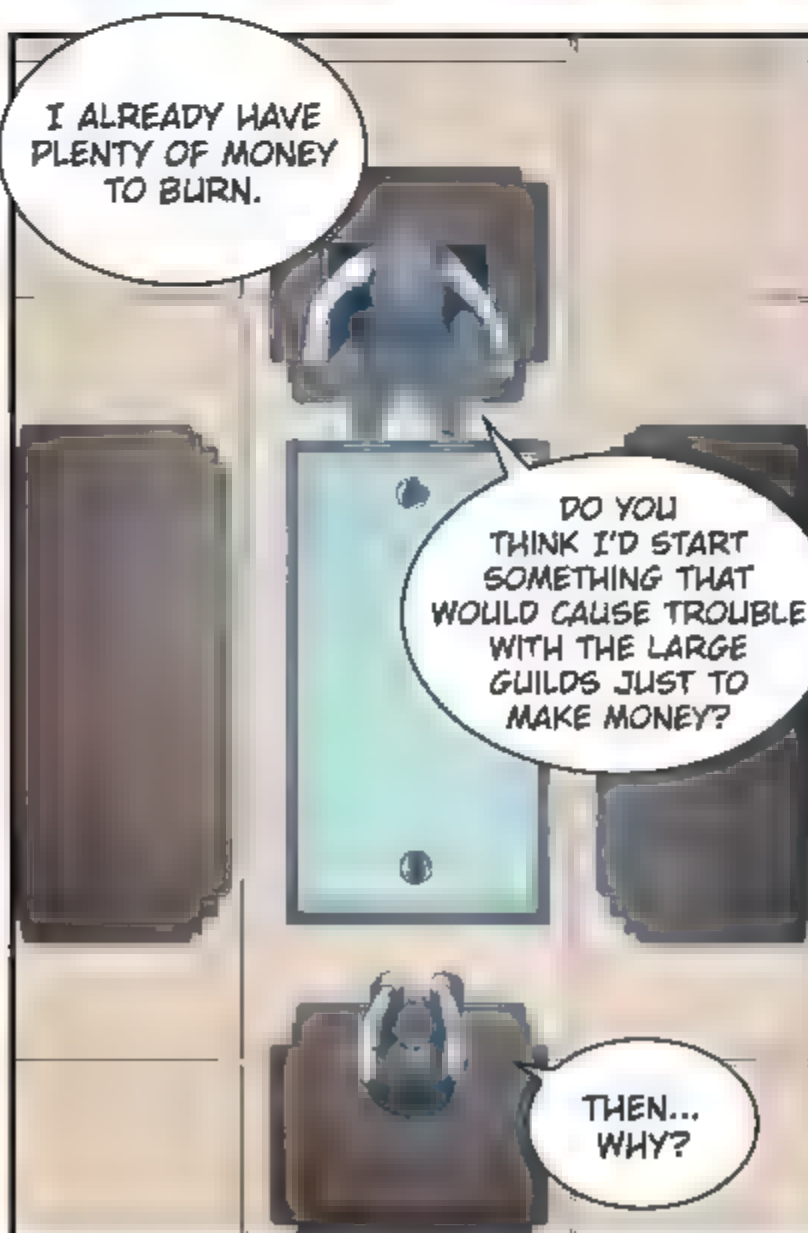


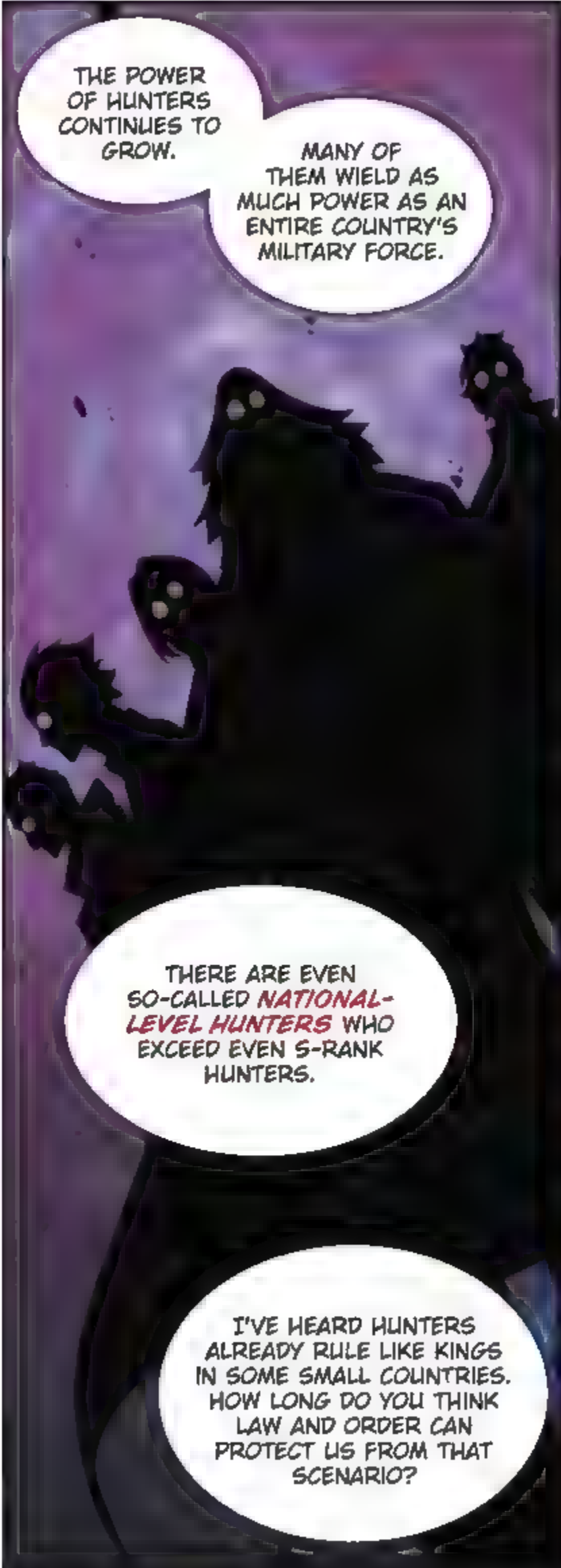


I HEARD THAT THE ASSOCIATION JUST ANNOUNCED HE'S AN S-RANK MAGE.









THE POWER
OF HUNTERS
CONTINUES TO
GROW.

MANY OF
THEM WIELD AS
MUCH POWER AS AN
ENTIRE COUNTRY'S
MILITARY FORCE.

THERE ARE EVEN
SO-CALLED **NATIONAL-
LEVEL HUNTERS** WHO
EXCEED EVEN S-RANK
HUNTERS.

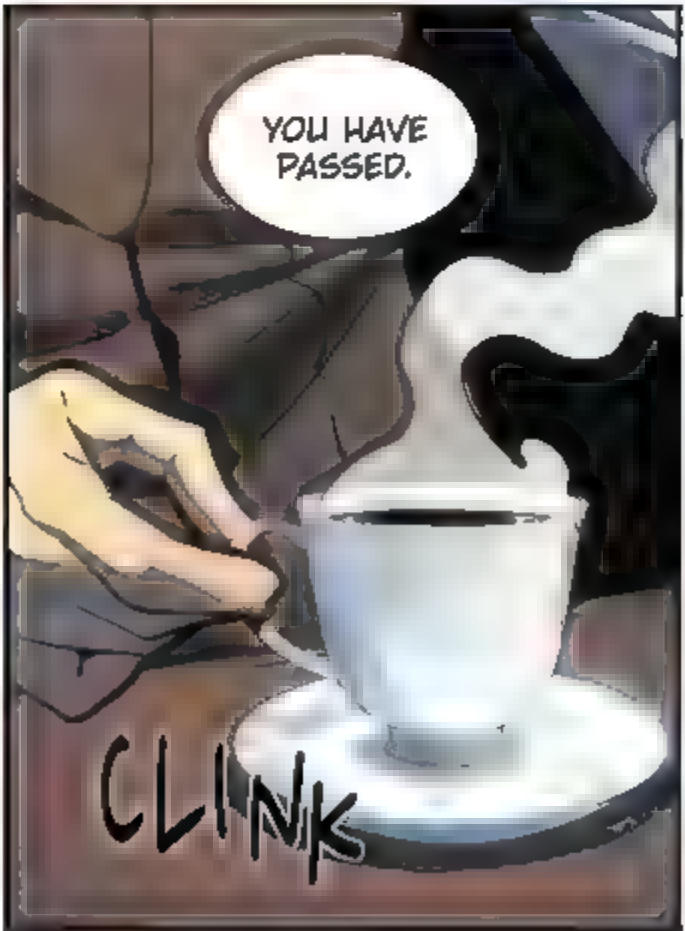
I'VE HEARD HUNTERS
ALREADY RULE LIKE KINGS
IN SOME SMALL COUNTRIES.
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK
LAW AND ORDER CAN
PROTECT US FROM THAT
SCENARIO?



MY GOAL WAS TO
GATHER RELIABLE
HUNTERS TO
FORM A GUILD—

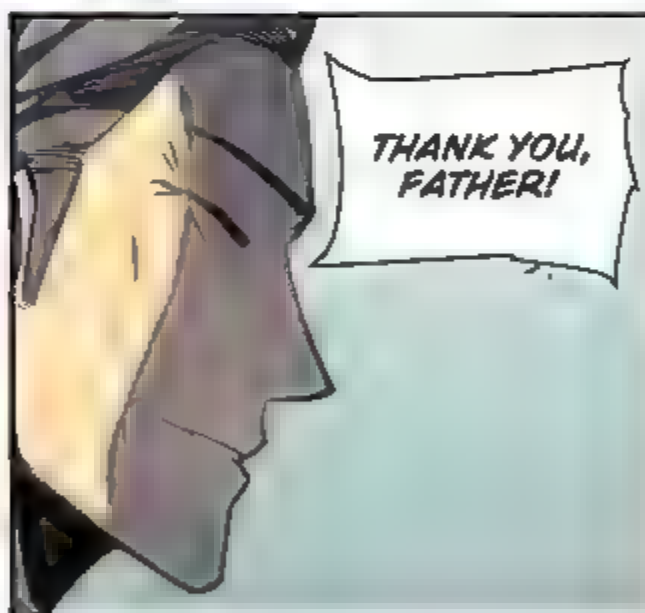
HUNTERS
I CAN TRUST
AND RELY ON, NOT
ONES INTERESTED
IN MONEY OR
CONNECTIONS.

IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU ALREADY
FOUND A PERSON
LIKE THAT.



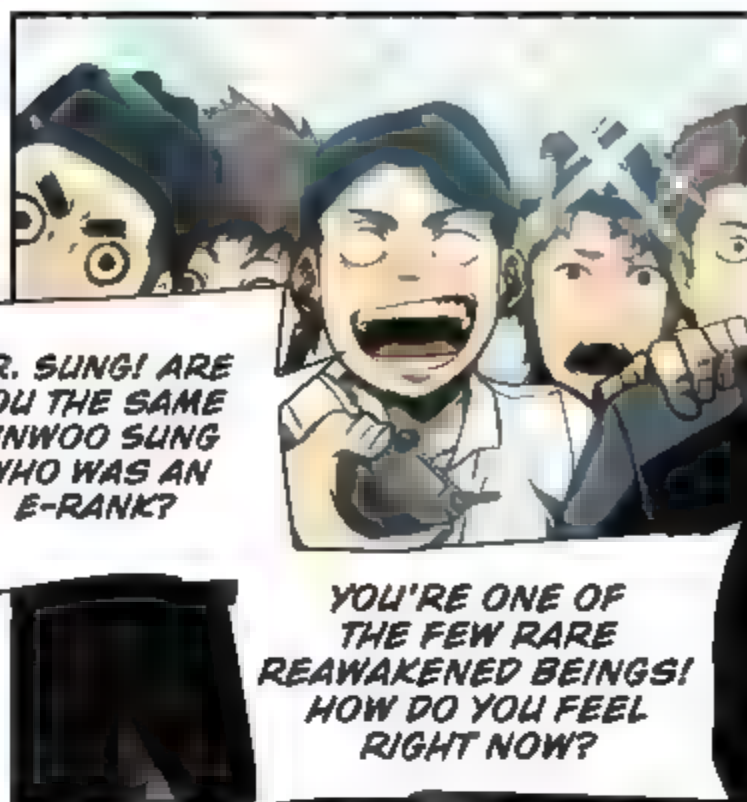
YOU HAVE
PASSED.

CLINK





WHAT ARE
THESE PEOPLE
DOING IN FRONT
OF ME INSTEAD OF
MINSUNG LEE?



MR. SUNG! ARE
YOU THE SAME
JINWOO SUNG
WHO WAS AN
E-RANK?

YOU'RE ONE OF
THE FEW RARE
REAWAKENED BEINGS!
HOW DO YOU FEEL
RIGHT NOW?



OVER HERE,
HUNTER SUNG!
LOOK THIS WAY,
PLEASE!

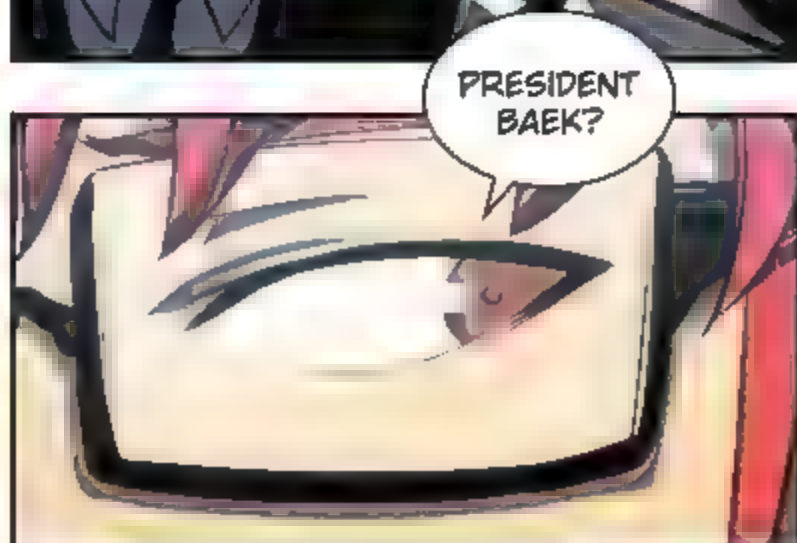
SMILE, MR.
SUNG, THE
ENTIRE NATION
IS WATCHING
YOU!

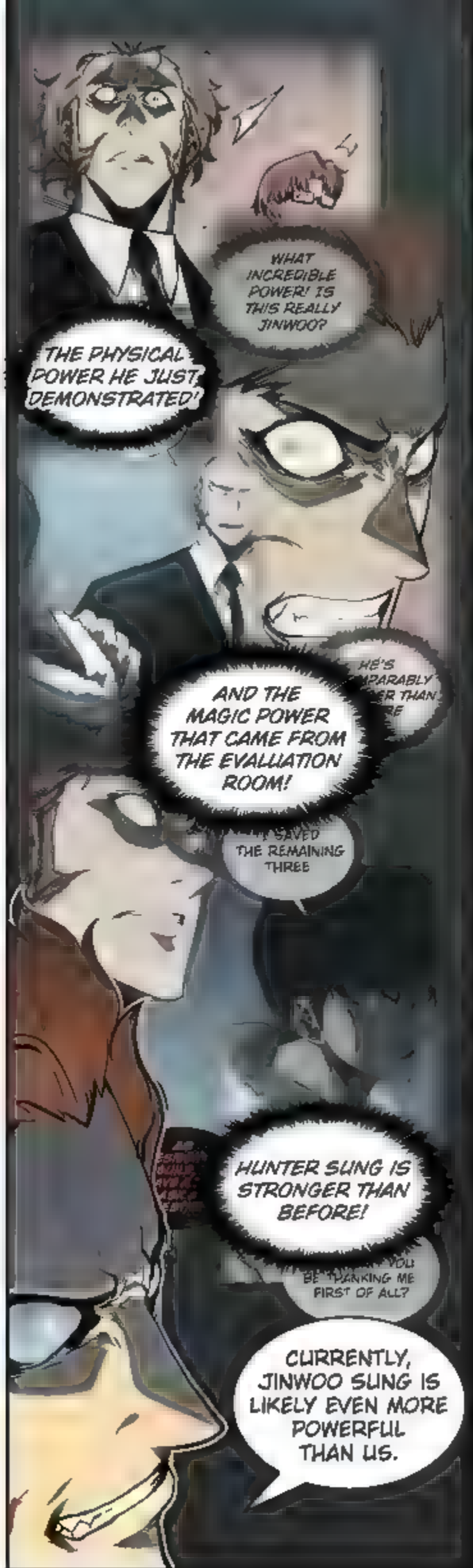
THEY'LL
DRAIN YOU IF YOU
LET THEM.

PLEASE
COME WITH US, AND
WE'LL ESCORT YOU
HOME.

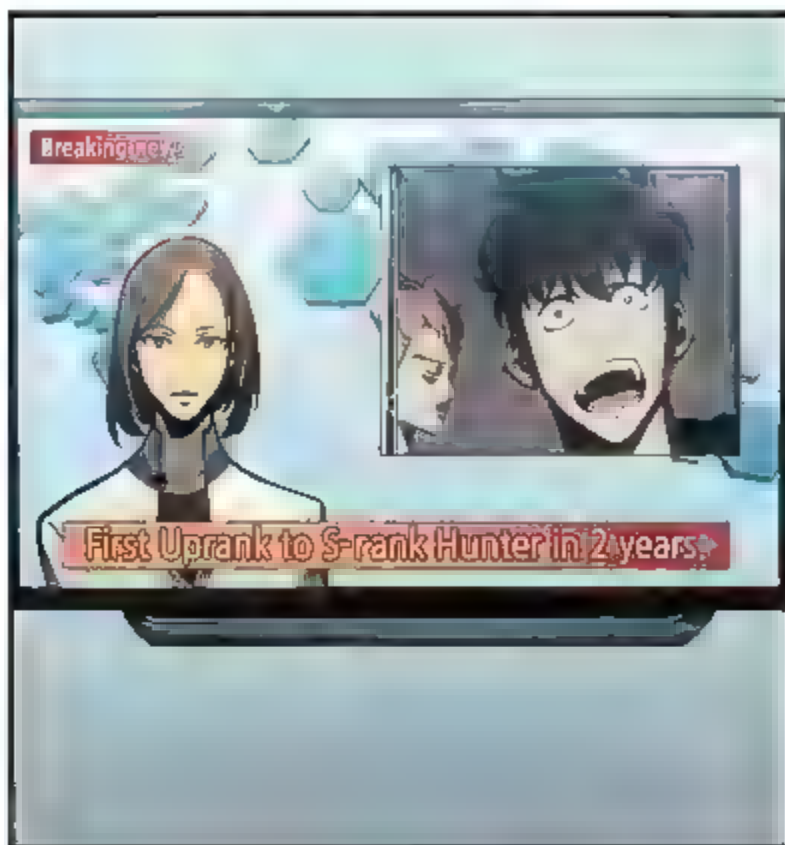


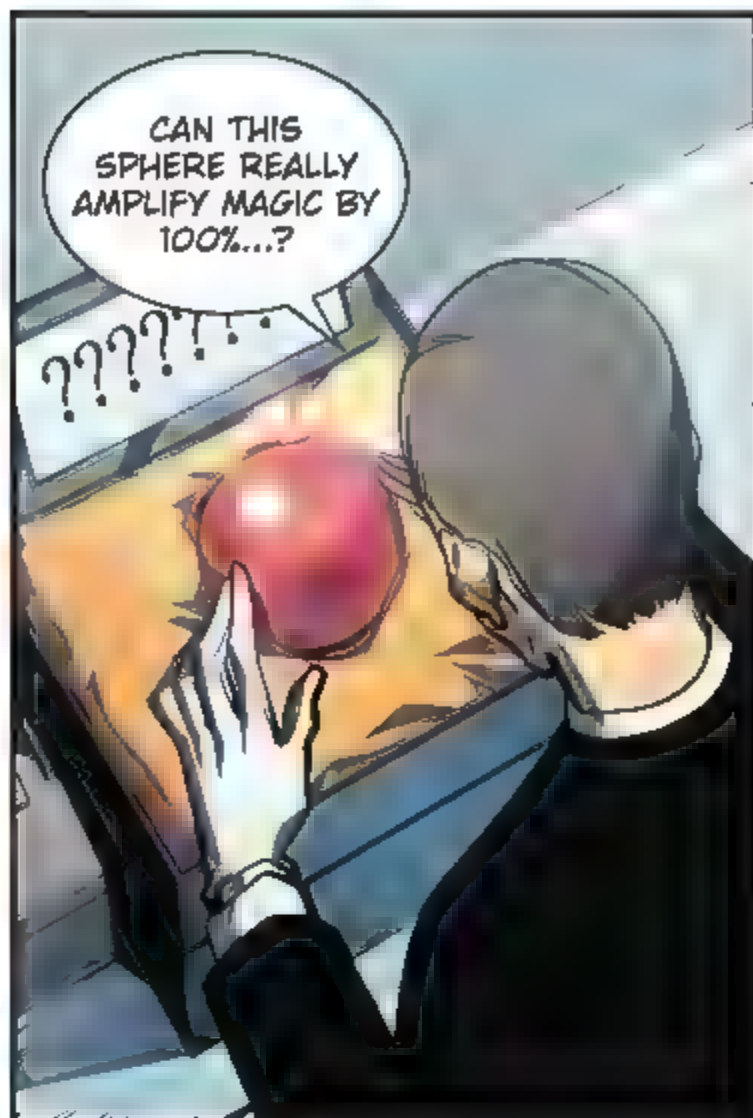
THAT'S OKAY.

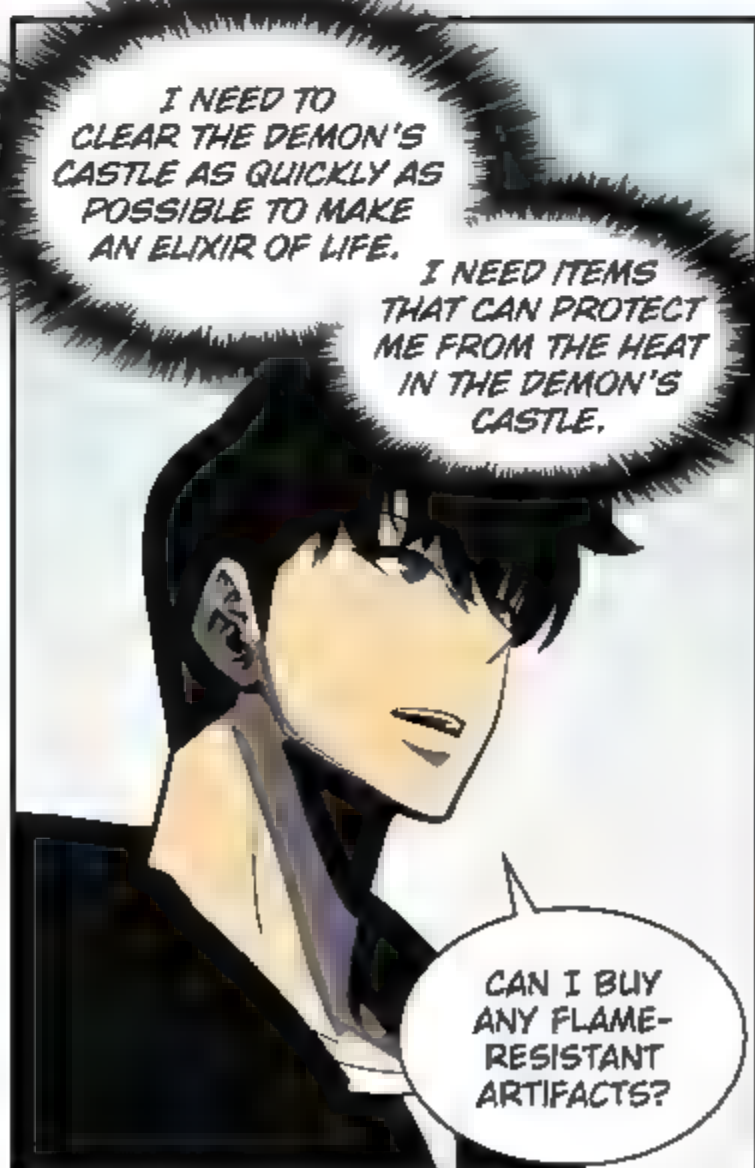
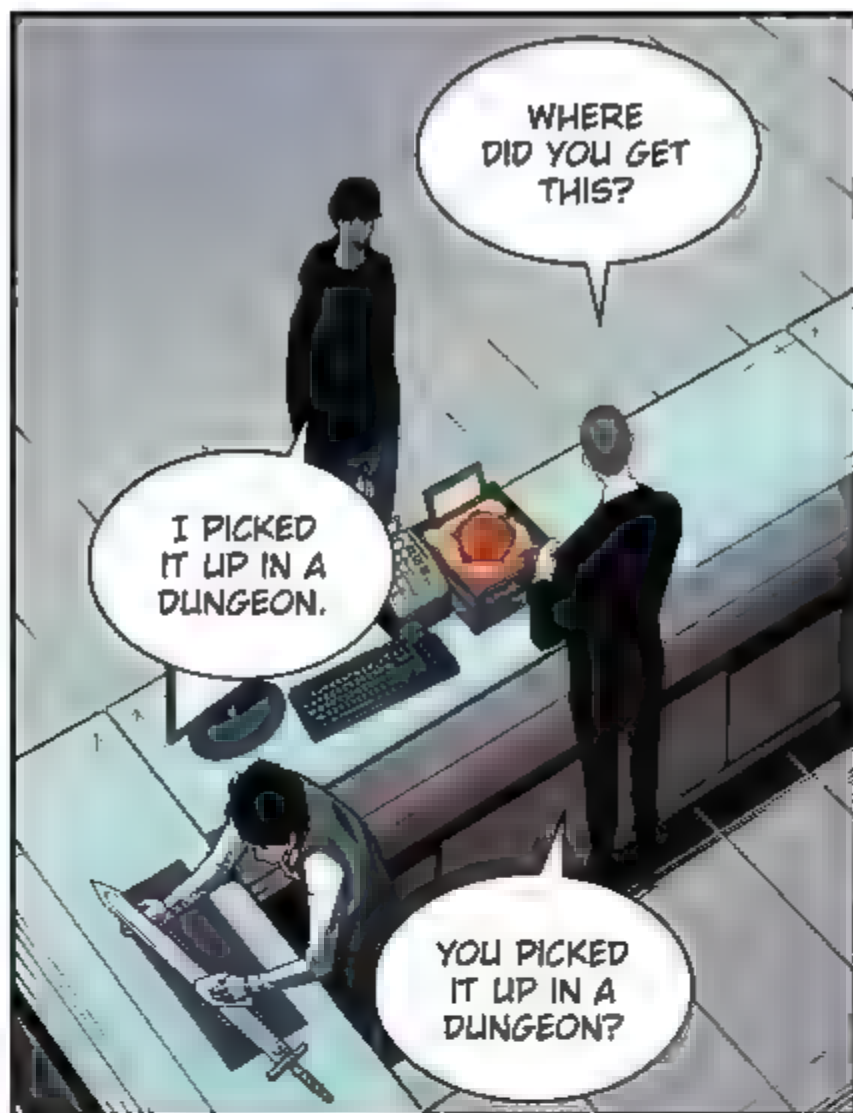




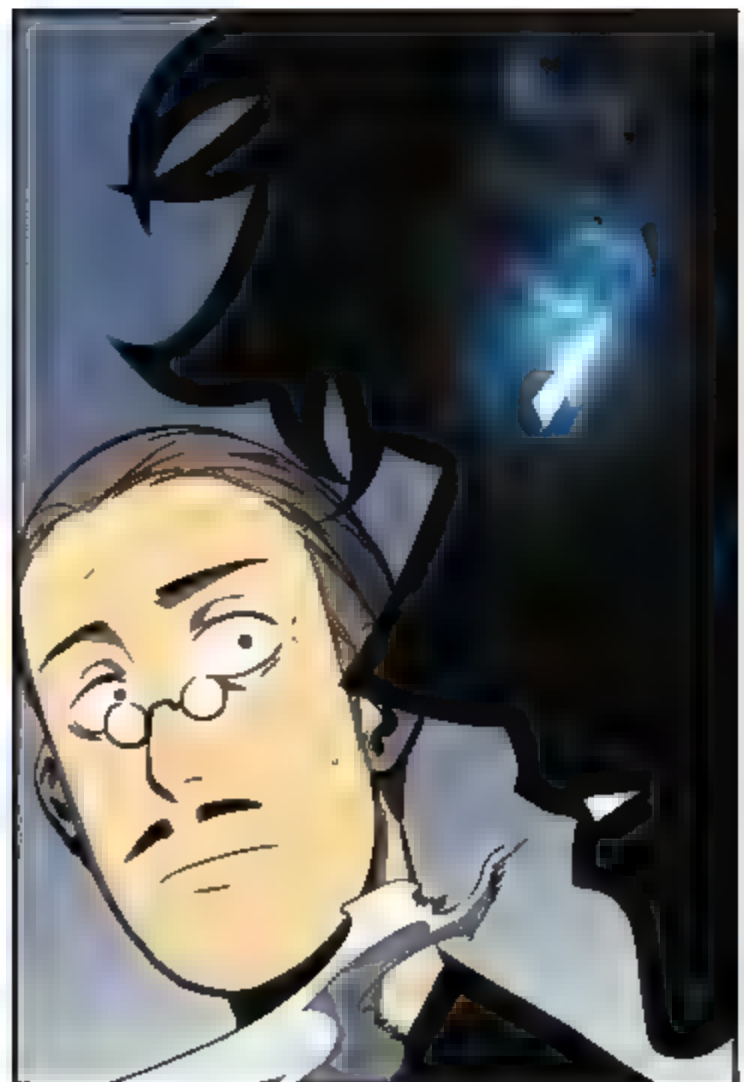
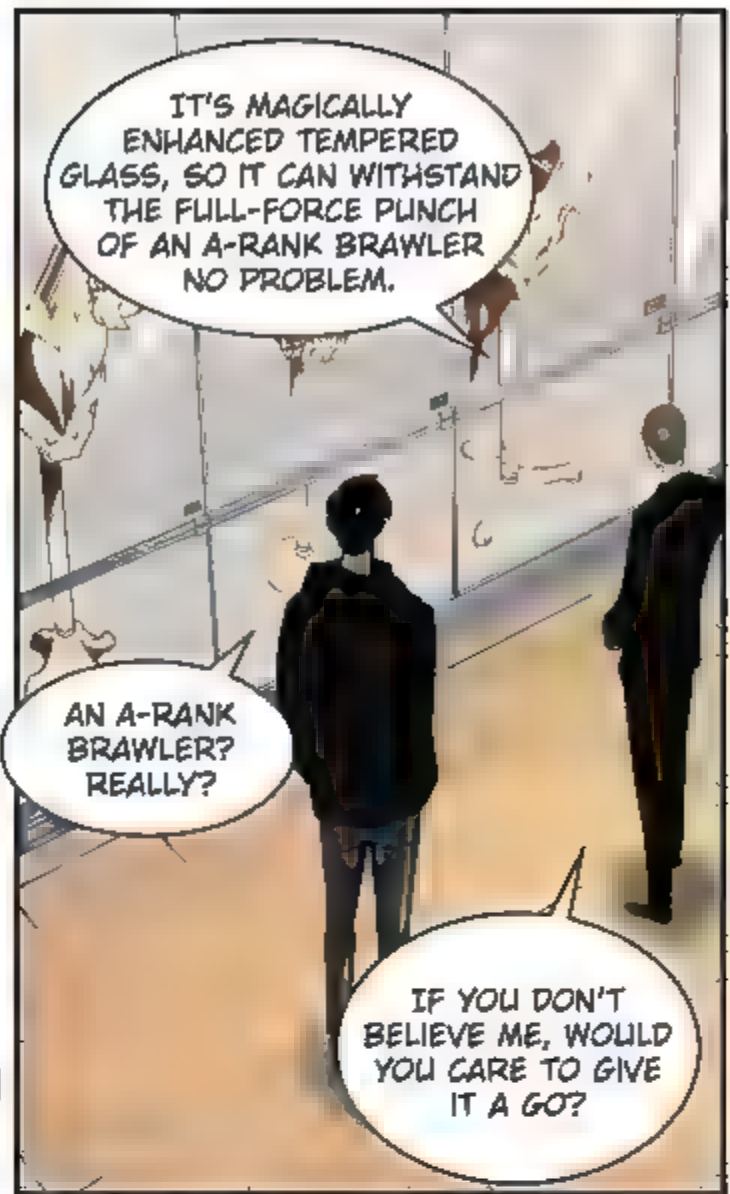
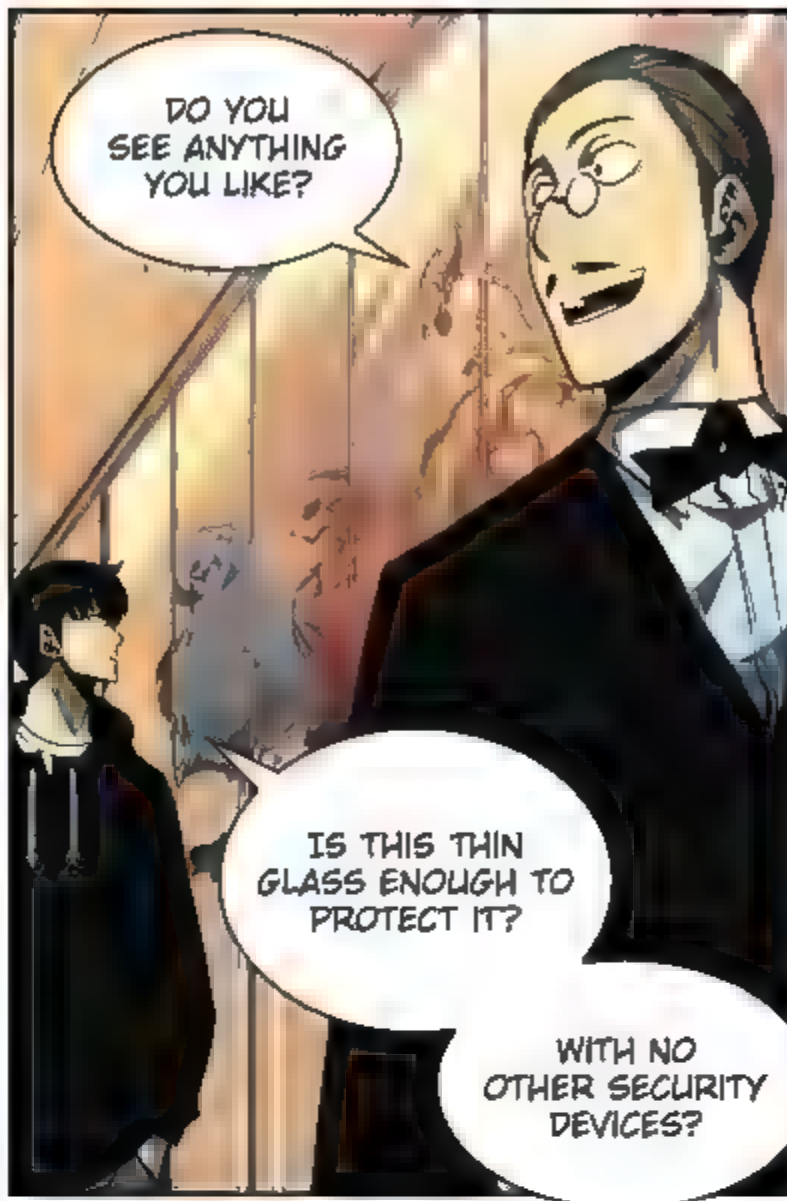




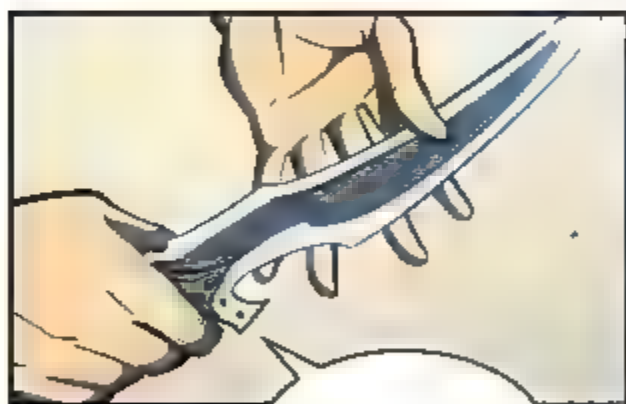


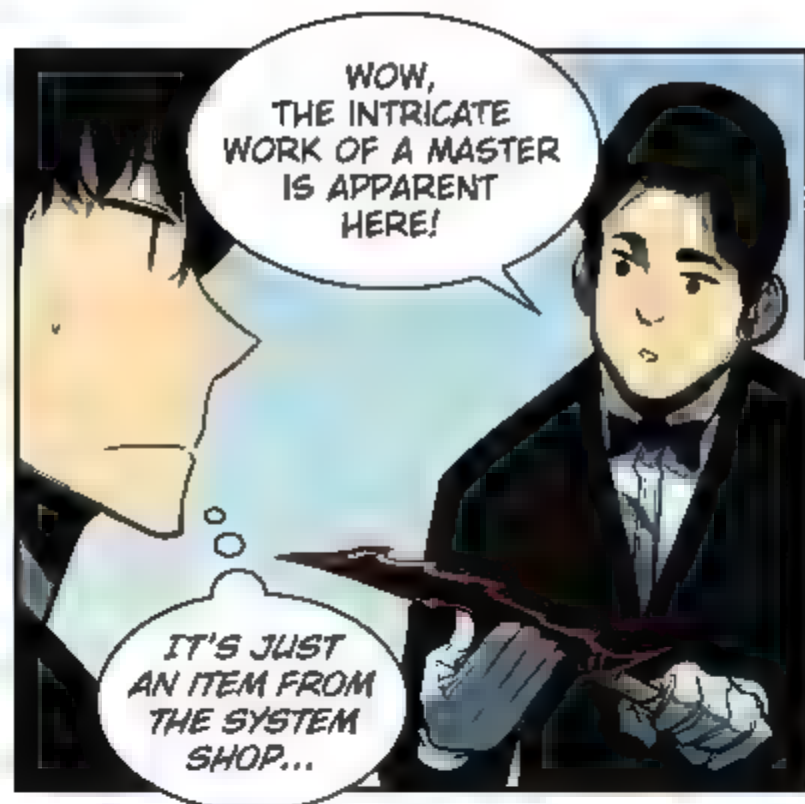
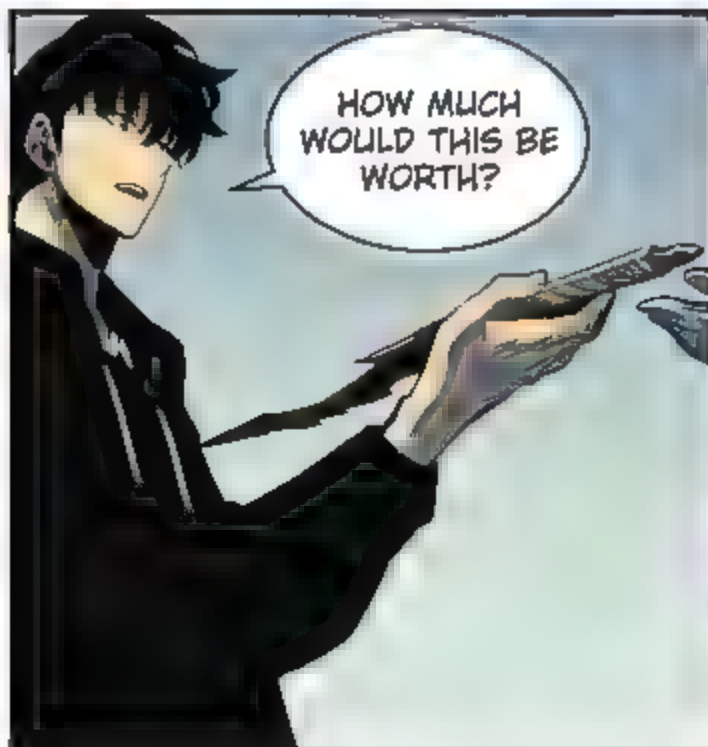




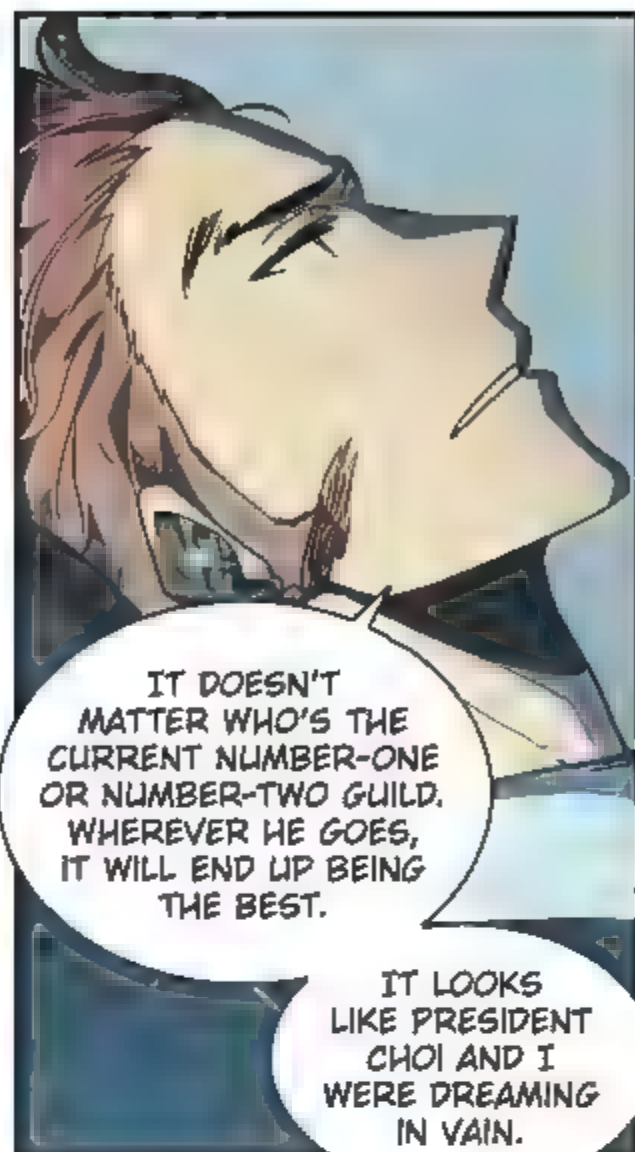


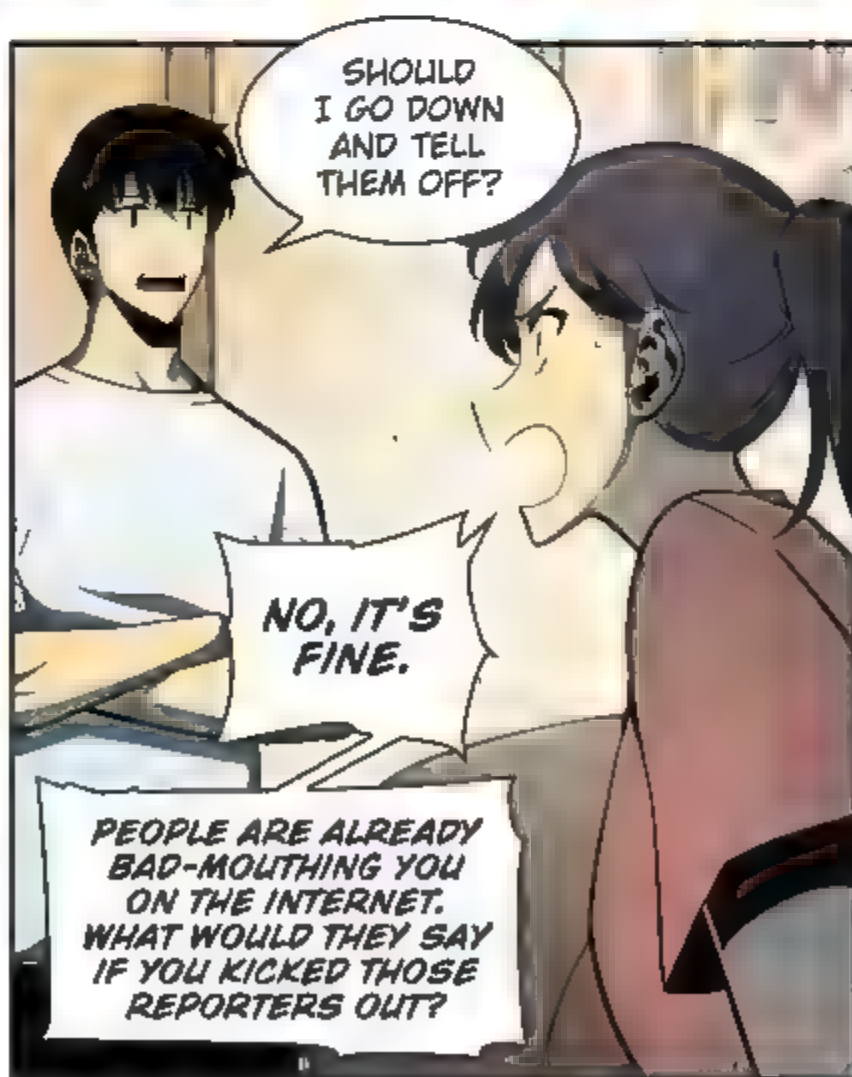






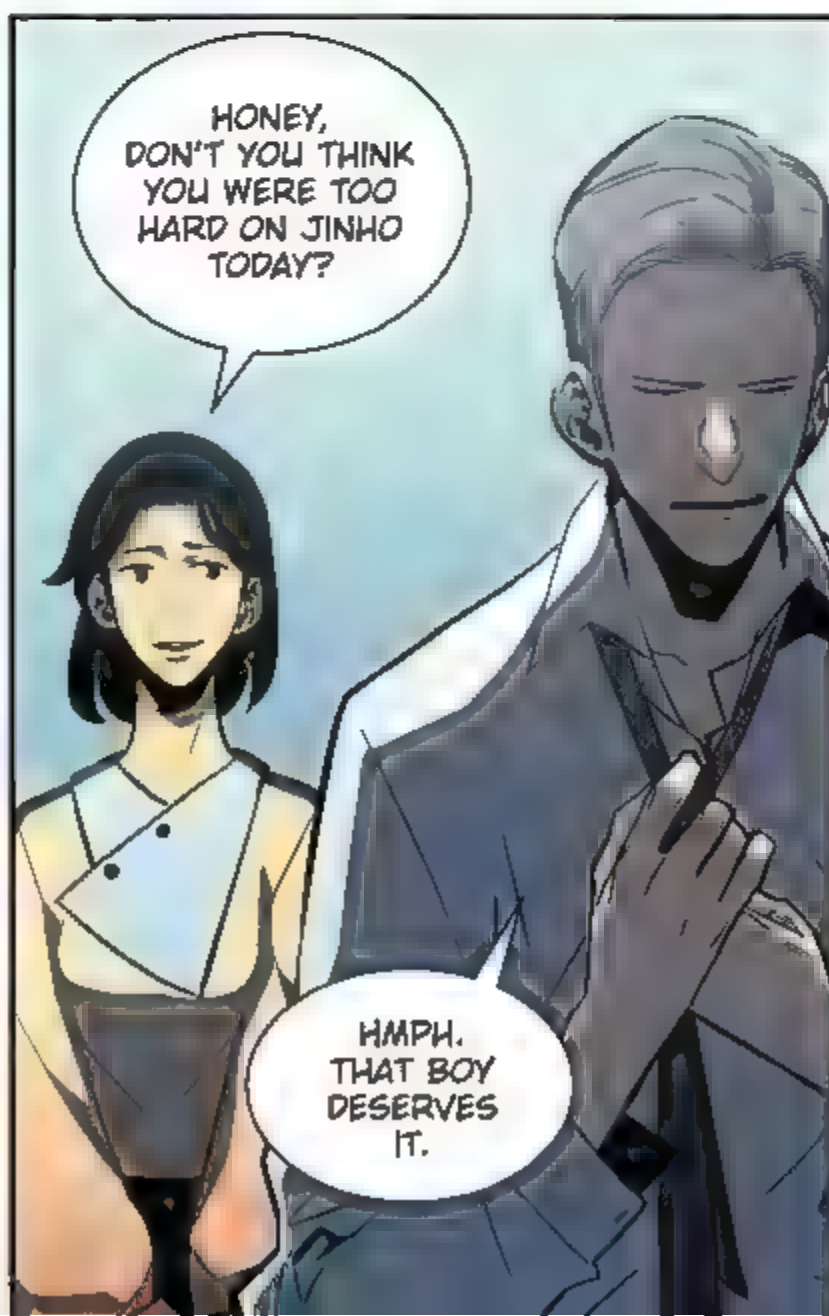


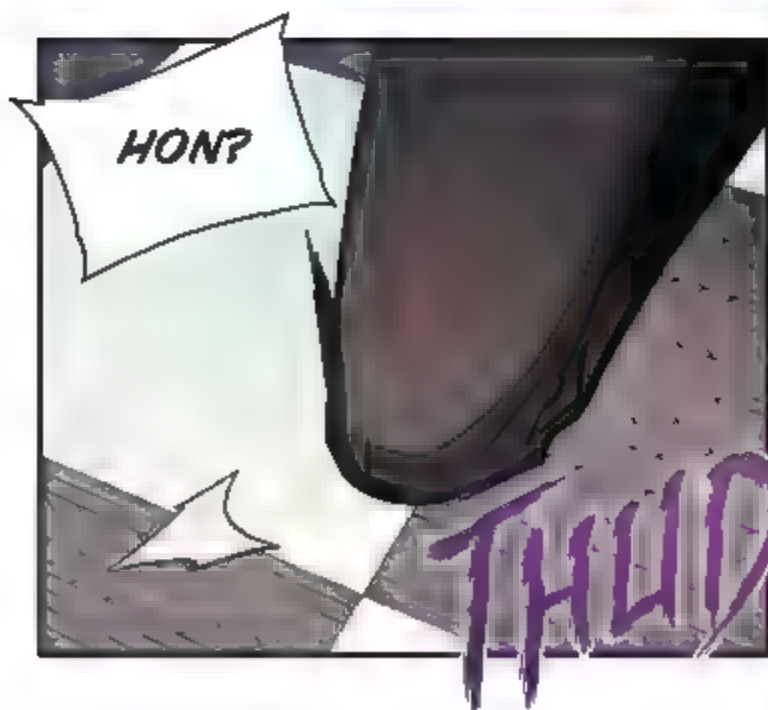
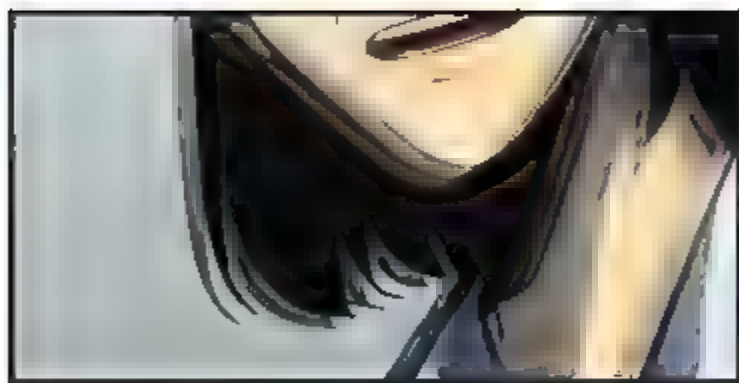
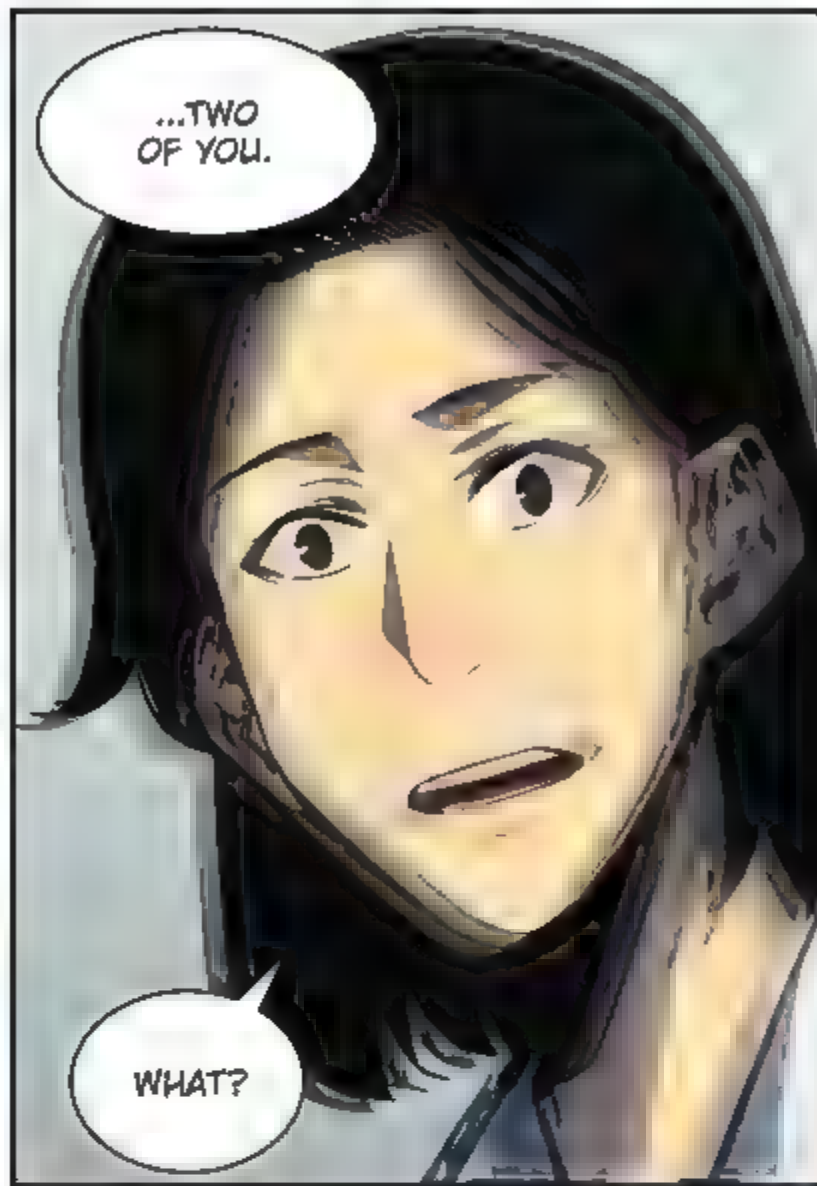
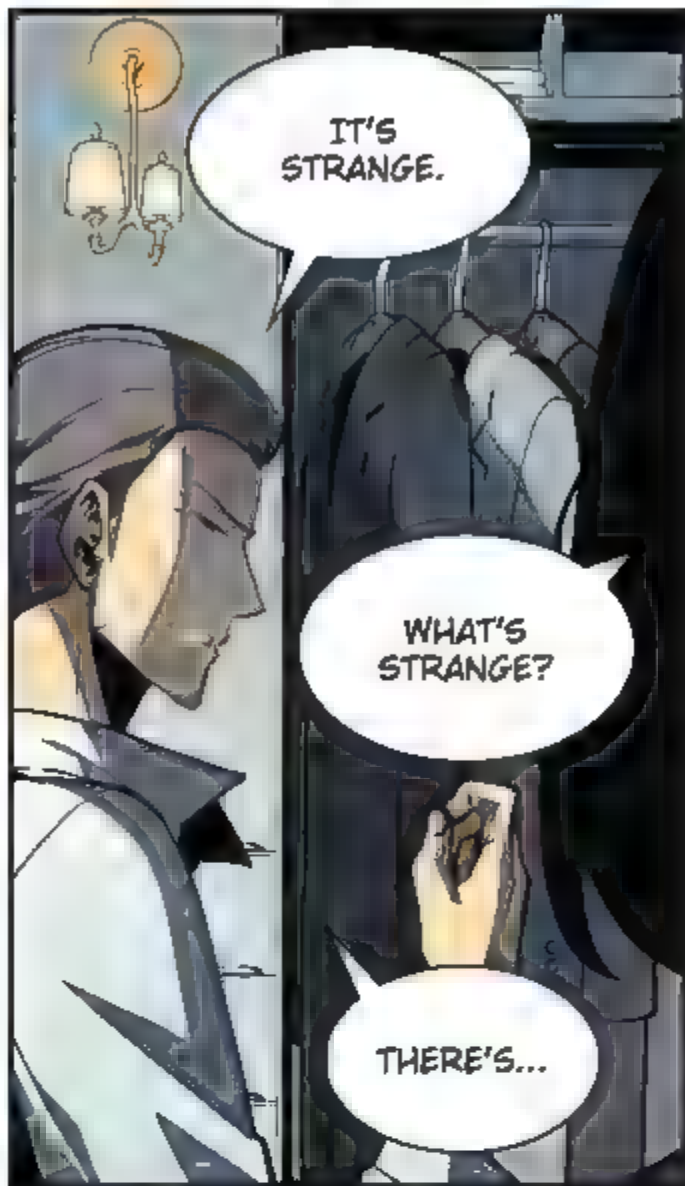


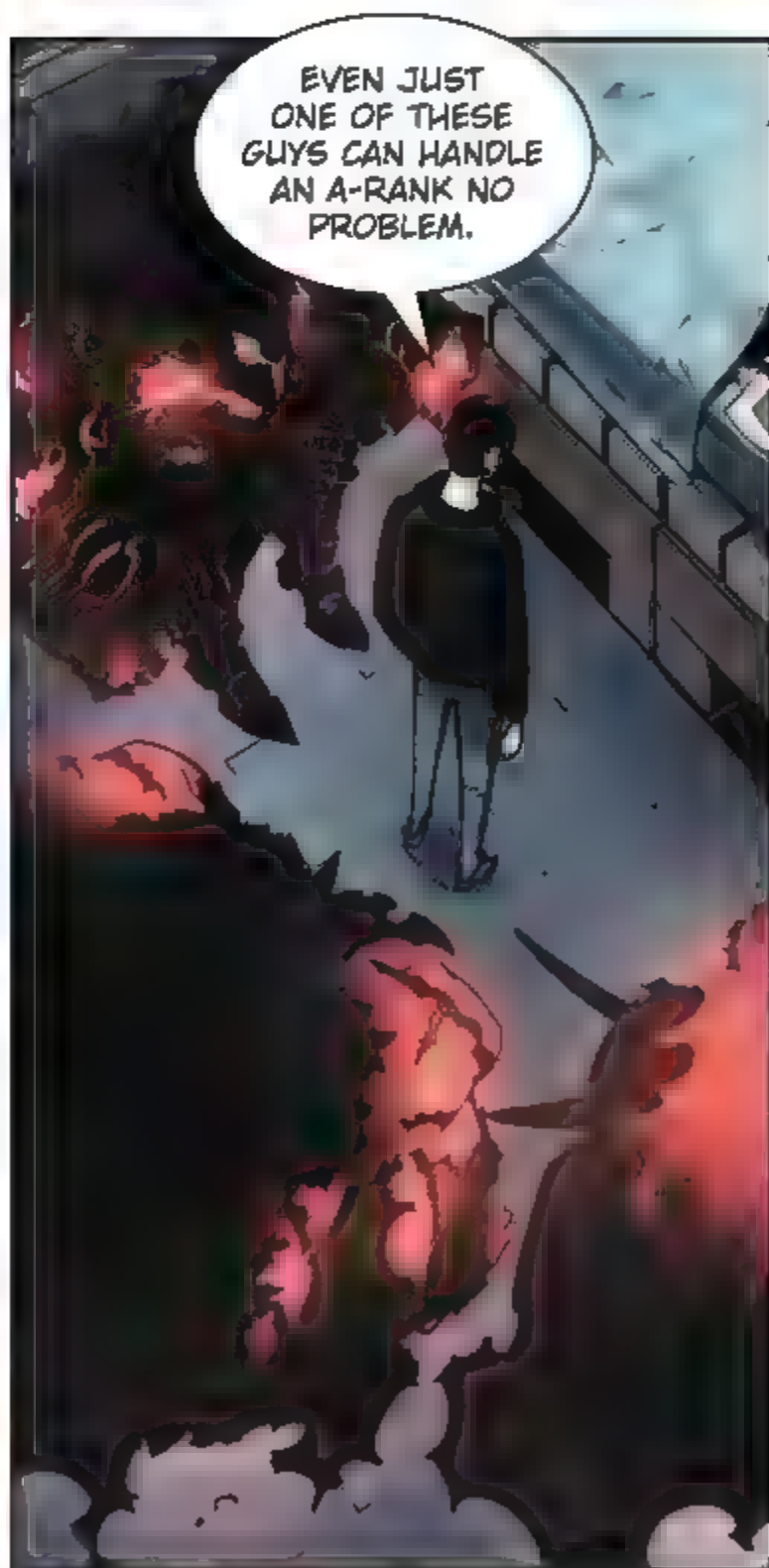


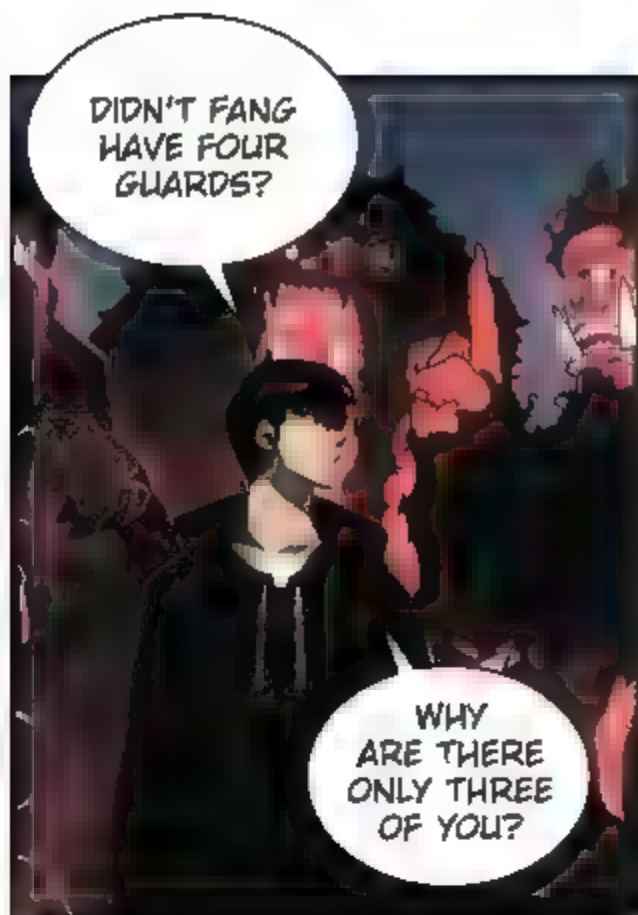


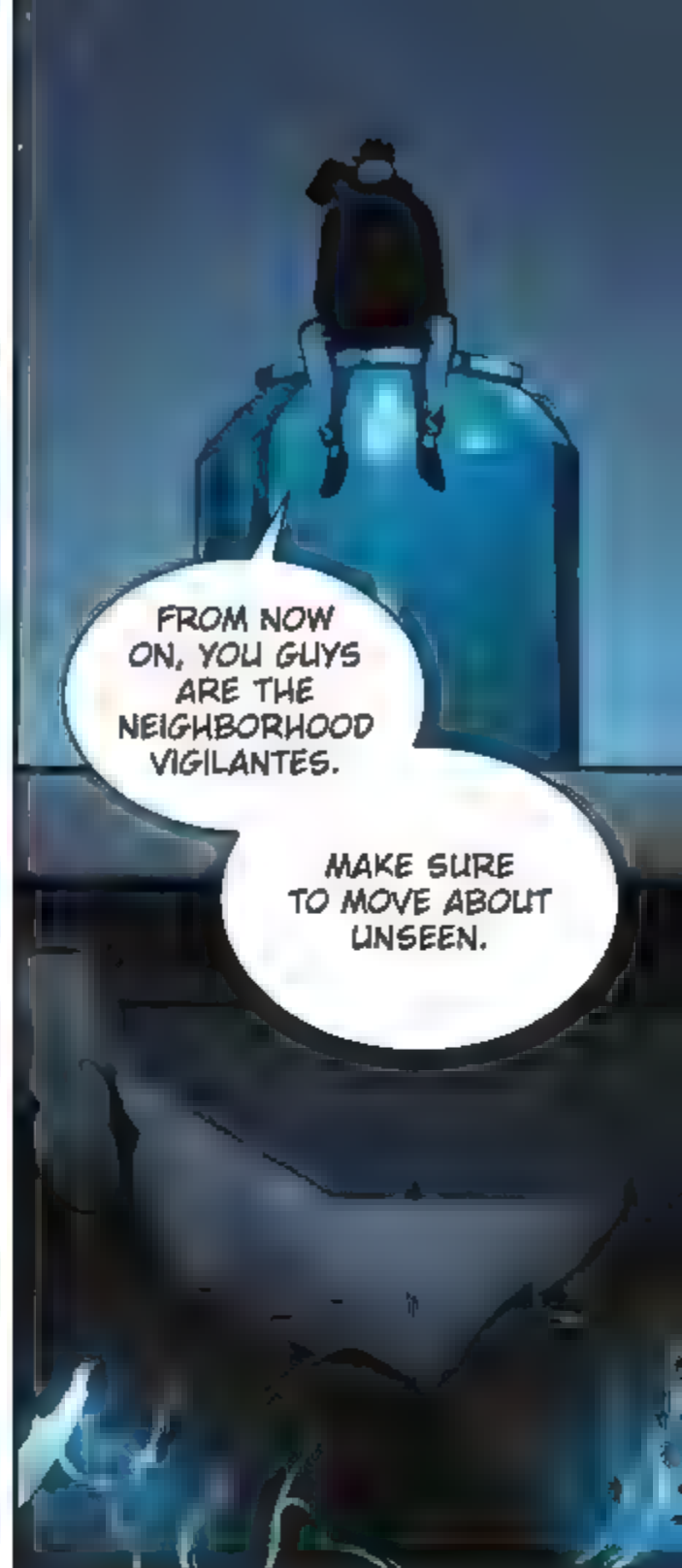
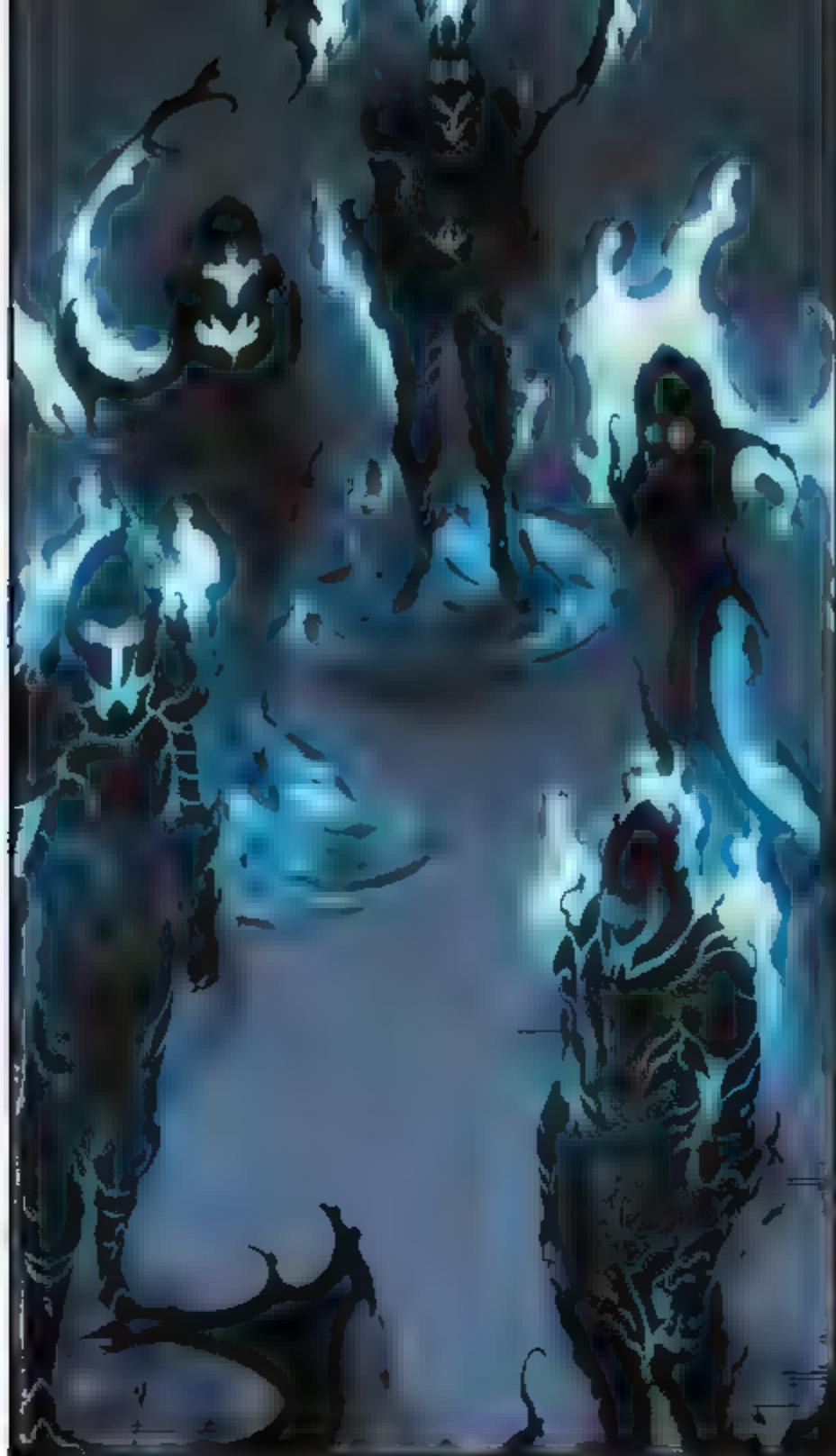












FROM NOW
ON, YOU GUYS
ARE THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
VIGILANTES.

MAKE SURE
TO MOVE ABOUT
UNSEEN.



START YOUR
PATROL.

WHOOSH



THERE'S NO
WAY SOMEONE ON A
MURDER SPREE COULD
DEFEAT MY SHADOW
SOLDIERS, UNLESS
THEY'RE A HIGH-RANK
HUNTER.

I GUESS THIS
WILL BE A LITTLE
BIT OF HELP FOR
THE WORLD.



YOU SLEEP
OKAY?



YES, BOSS.
MOTELS THESE
DAYS ARE PRETTY
DECENT.



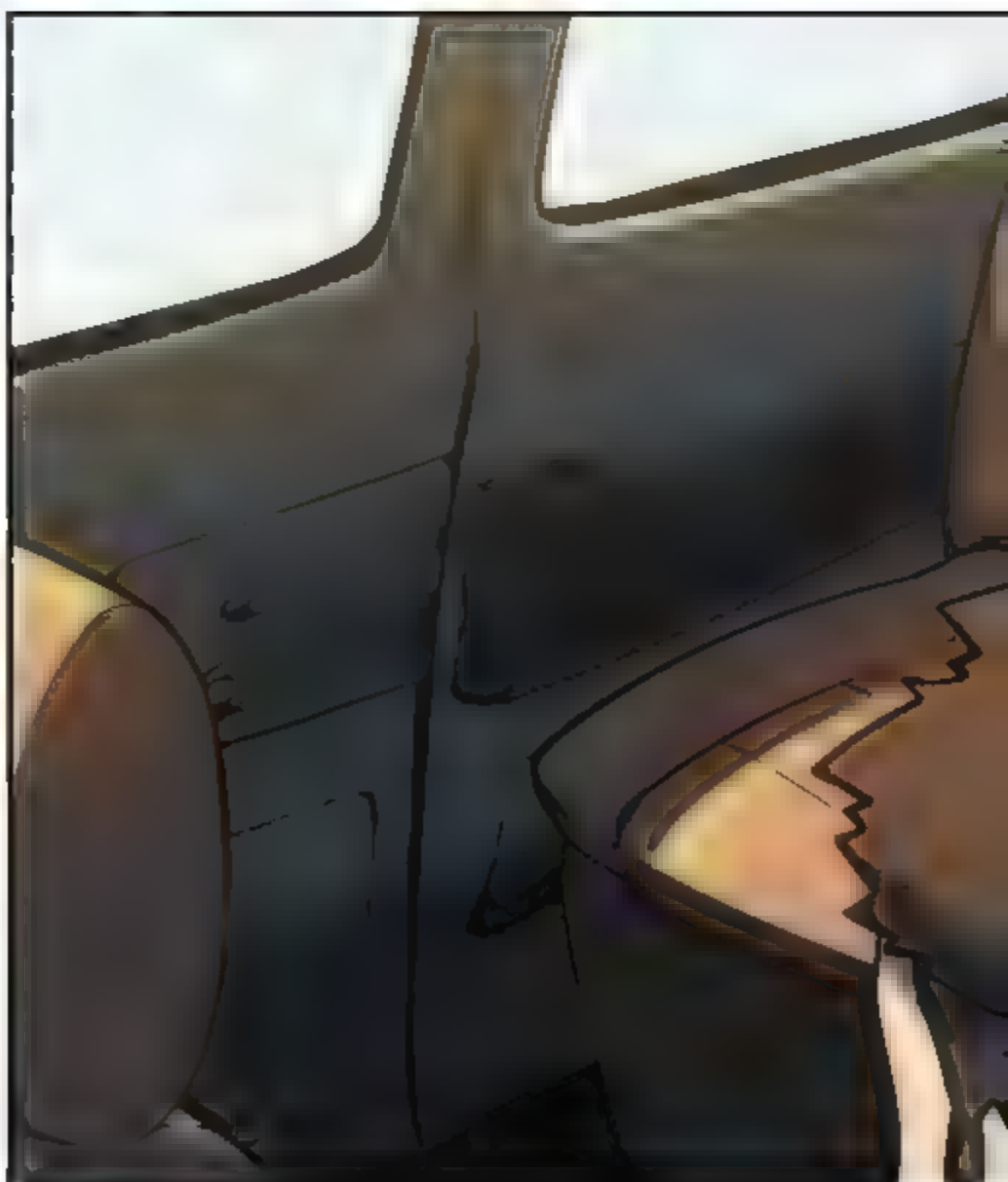
YOU'LL
ONLY BE THERE
UNTIL I GET AN
OFFICE SPACE FOR
THE GUILD.



I CAN'T BELIEVE
HE ACTUALLY TURNED
DOWN BECOMING THE
MASTER OF YOOJIN
GUILD.

WHAT
DO YOU SAY TO
SOMEONE WHO GOT
DISOWNED BECAUSE
HE LIKES YOU TOO
MUCH?

WHY DO YOU
NEED TO GO TO
DAESUNG TOWER
SO EARLY IN THE
MORNING?



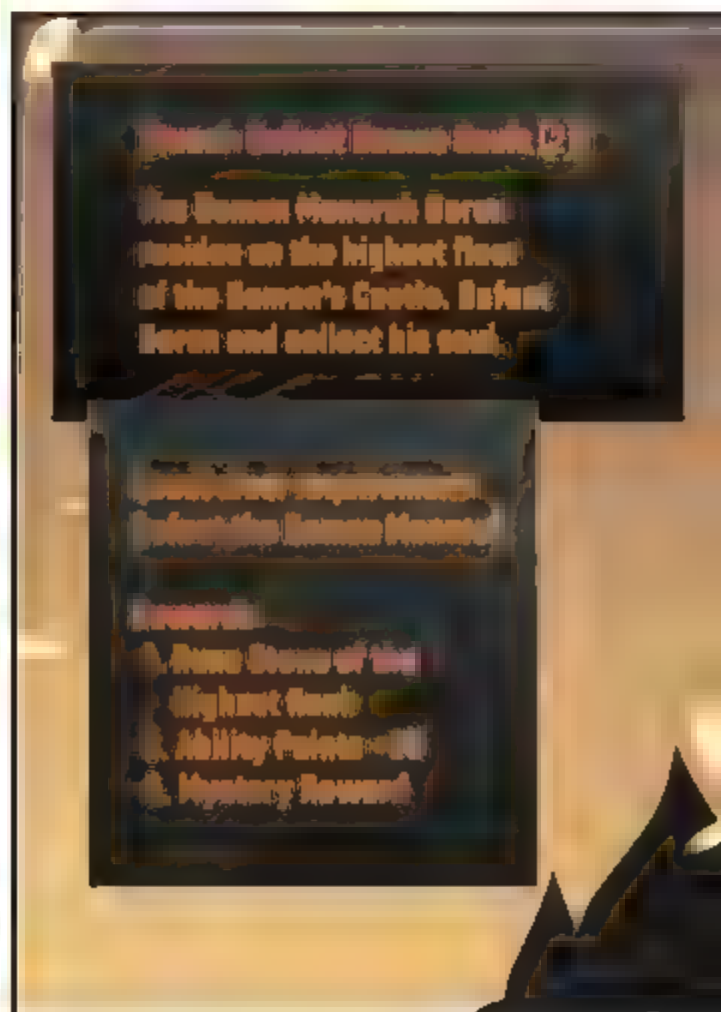
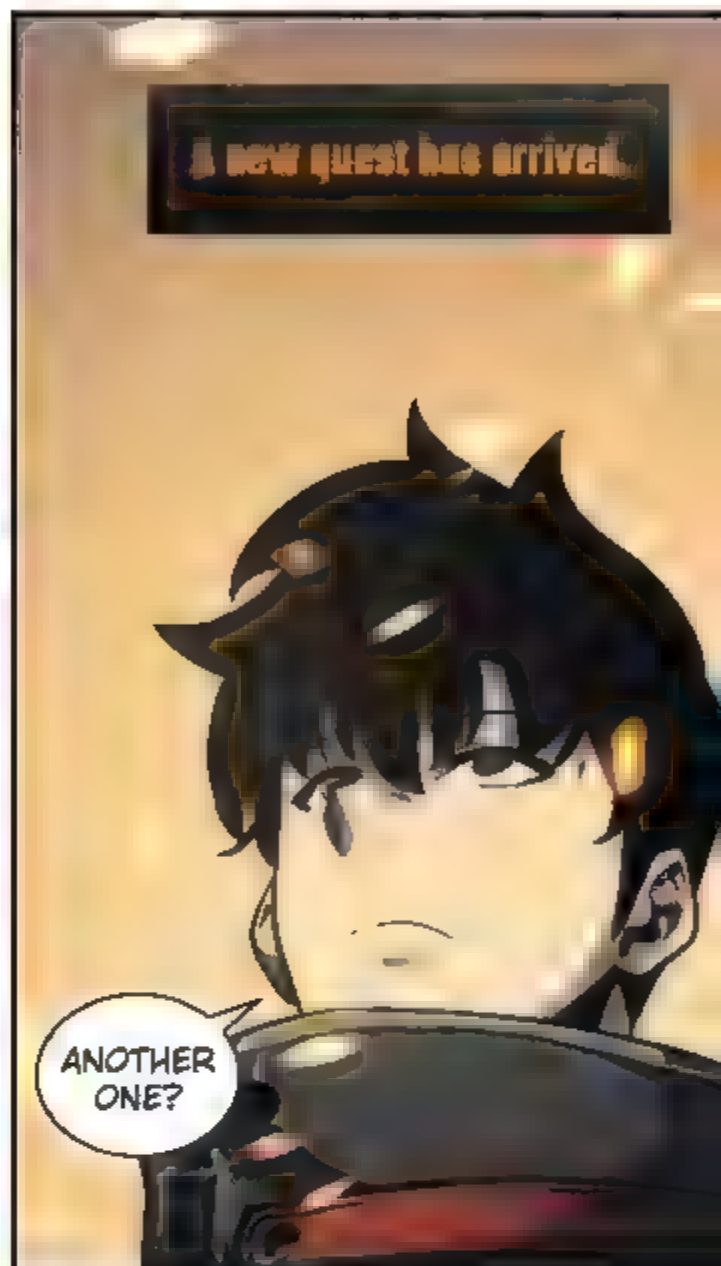
You have entered the Demon's
Castle dungeon.

THE LEVEL
OF DIFFICULTY
WILL INCREASE
EXPONENTIALLY
FROM HERE.

SO I'VE COME
PREPARED.

THIS NEW GEAR
WILL SHIELD ME
FROM THE HEAT.

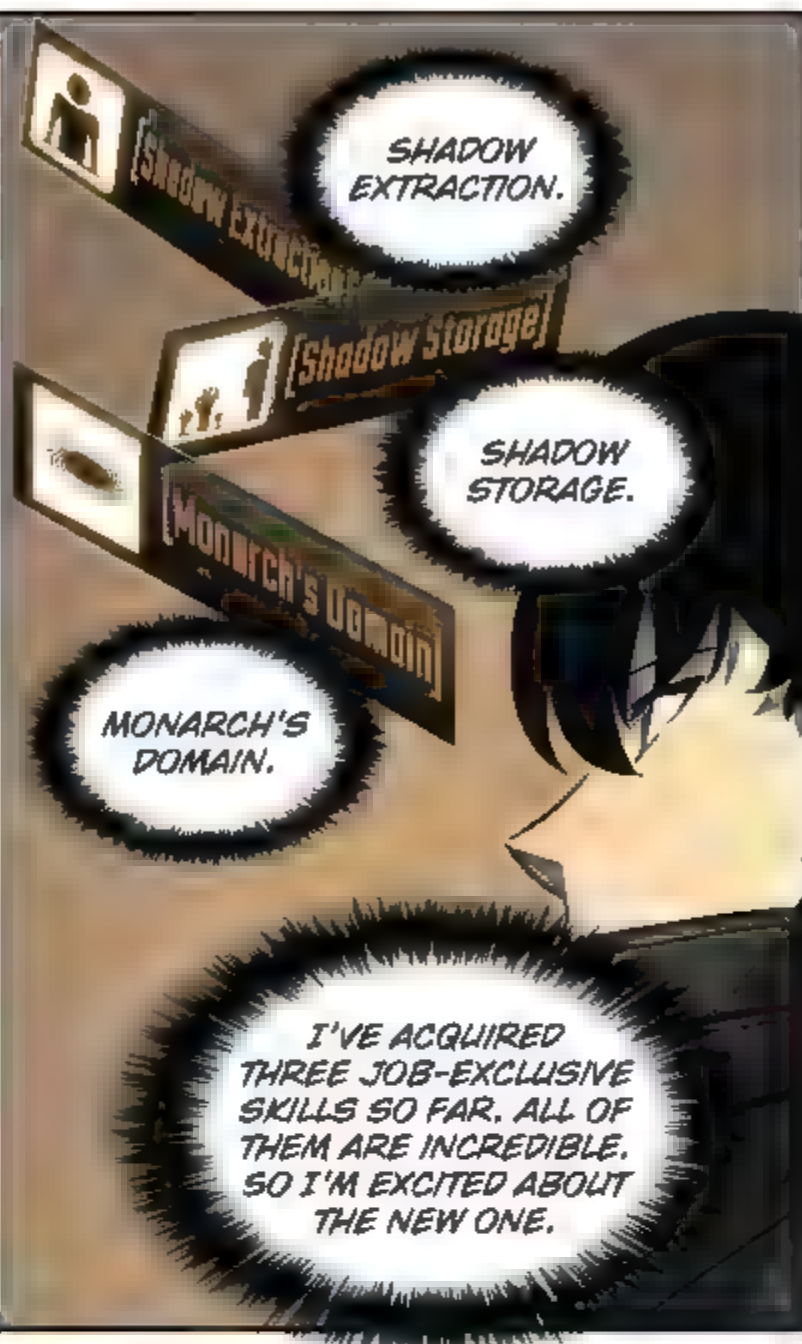
A BLACK
CLOAK NAMED THE
ROBE OF WIND BY ITS
MAKER. AND A RING
WITH NO NAME
IMBUED WITH WATER
MAGIC.



Runes Stone of the Highest Rank
[Shadow Exchange]
When you crush the rune stone, you
may obtain a job-exclusive skill.

REWARDS
ARE MUCH MORE
GENEROUS
THAN THE LAST
TIME.

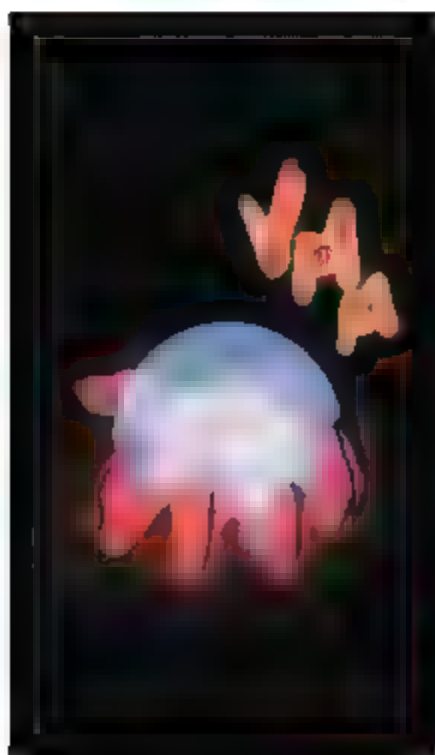
I'LL GET A
RUNE STONE
THAT GIVES ME A
JOB-EXCLUSIVE
SKILL.



Floors one through seventy-six
have been opened.

Where would you
like to teleport?

SEVENTY-
SIX.





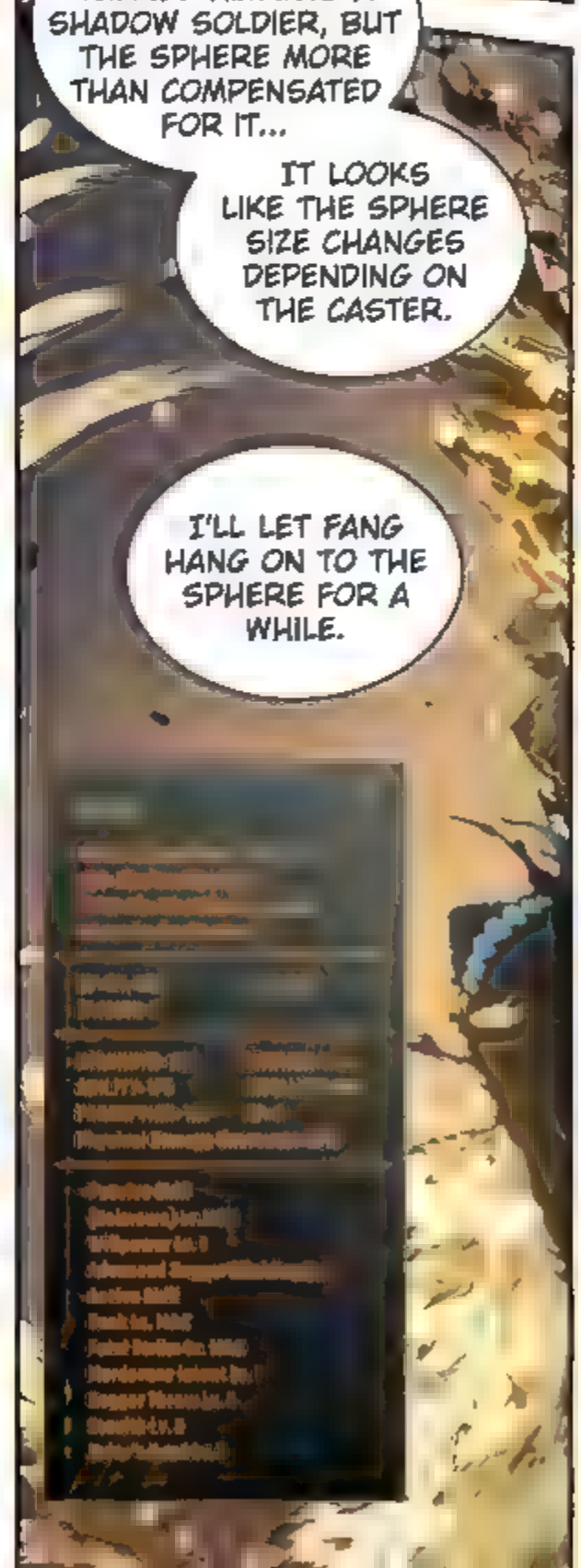


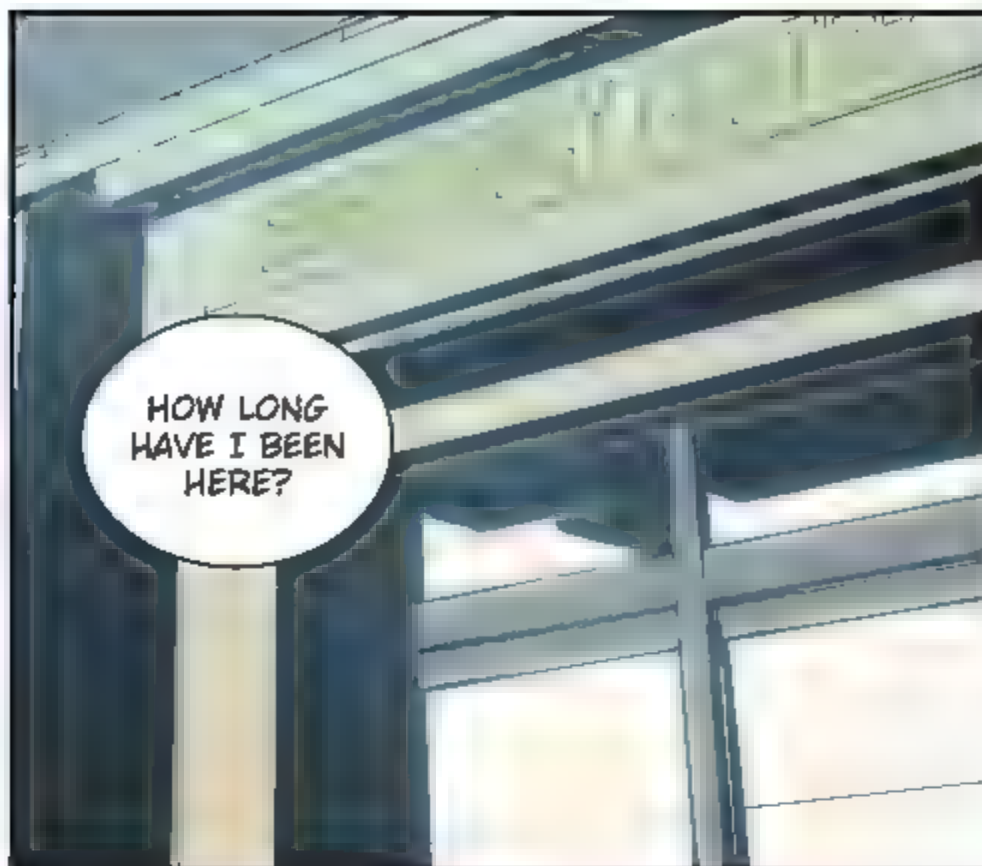
ABSOLUTELY
INCREDIBLE.

FANG WAS
NERFED WHEN I
TURNED HIM INTO A
SHADOW SOLDIER, BUT
THE SPHERE MORE
THAN COMPENSATED
FOR IT...

IT LOOKS
LIKE THE SPHERE
SIZE CHANGES
DEPENDING ON
THE CASTER.

I'LL LET FANG
HANG ON TO THE
SPHERE FOR A
WHILE.





HOW LONG
HAVE I BEEN
HERE?



YOU'VE BEEN
ASLEEP FOR TWO
WHOLE DAYS.



I GUESS
I WAS QUITE
TIRED.

DID YOU FIND...
ANYTHING?



DO YOU SPEND
MUCH TIME WITH
ANY HUNTERS OR
OTHER AWAKENED
BEINGS?

WHAT
DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT'S THIS
GOT TO DO WITH
HUNTERS?



HAVE YOU
HEARD ABOUT THE
**ETERNAL SLEEP
DISEASE?**



**ETERNAL SLEEP
DISEASE. THE
STRANGE SLEEP
FROM WHICH NO
ONE HAS
AWAKENED YET.**

**NOT ONLY DO
PATIENTS NOT
WAKE UP FROM
THIS SLEEP...**

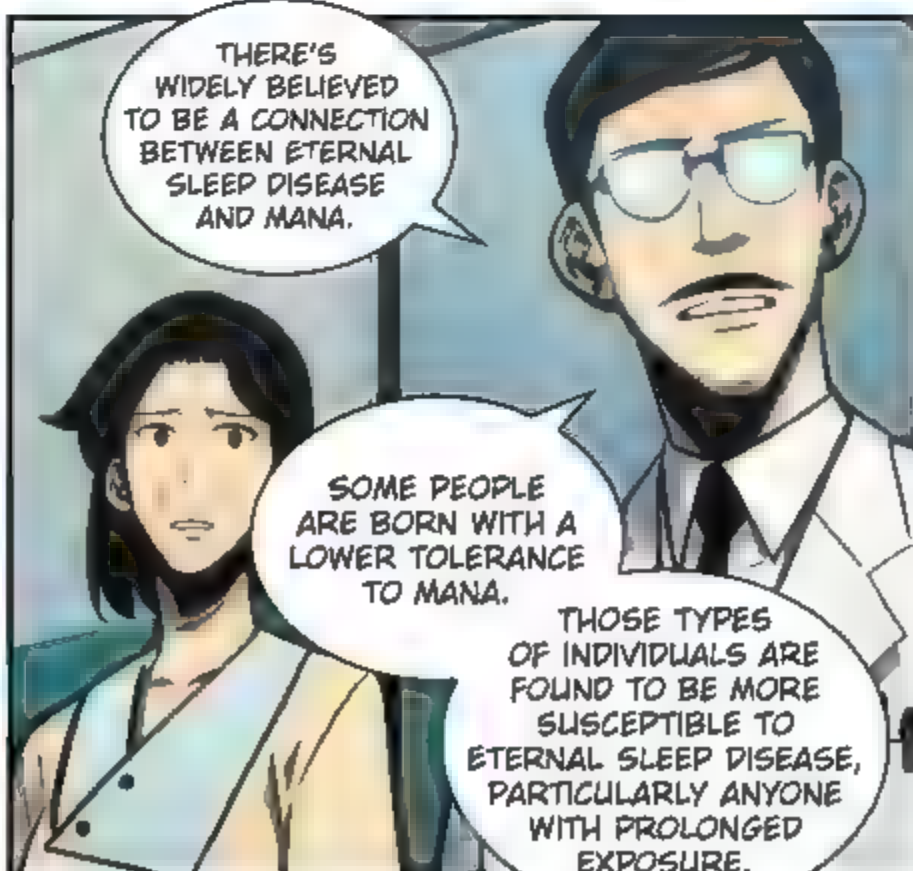
**...BUT THEIR
BODIES ALSO QUICKLY
DETERIORATE,
NECESSITATING THEY BE
PUT ON LIFE SUPPORT
POWERED BY MAGIC.**

**THE DISEASE WAS FIRST
DIAGNOSED AFTER GATES
BEGAN TO APPEAR. IT WAS
A HORRIBLE DISEASE THAT
TOOK THE LIVES OF MANY
PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T
AFFORD TO PAY FOR A LIFE
SUPPORT MACHINE.**



**INITIALLY,
SUFFERERS ARE
SIMPLY DROWSY,
BUT EVENTUALLY
THEY ARE UNABLE
TO WAKE.**

**SO WHAT
DO HUNTERS
HAVE TO DO
WITH IT?**



**THERE'S
WIDELY BELIEVED
TO BE A CONNECTION
BETWEEN ETERNAL
SLEEP DISEASE
AND MANA.**

**SOME PEOPLE
ARE BORN WITH A
LOWER TOLERANCE
TO MANA.**

**THOSE TYPES
OF INDIVIDUALS ARE
FOUND TO BE MORE
SUSCEPTIBLE TO
ETERNAL SLEEP DISEASE,
PARTICULARLY ANYONE
WITH PROLONGED
EXPOSURE.**



ESSENCE STONES,
MAGIC GEMS, AND
PEOPLE WITH MAGIC
POWER ARE WHAT YOU
NEED TO WATCH
OUT FOR.

SOMETHING
MUST HAVE
TRIGGERED YOUR
SYMPTOMS TO
SHOW UP SO
SUDDENLY, SIR.



IS THERE A
HUNTER...

...AMONG
YOUR FAMILY
MEMBERS?



EXPOSURE
TO MAGIC
POWER FOR A
LONG PERIOD
OF TIME...



OVER TIME,
MAGIC HAS
BEEN RELIED
UPON MORE
AND MORE...

...AND
THE NUMBER
OF PEOPLE WITH
MAGIC POWERS
IS STEADILY
INCREASING...



THEN
THERE ARE THE
PEOPLE WHO ARE
INTOLERANT TO
MAGIC...



...BEING
FORCIBLY
EXPELLED FROM
THIS WORLD.



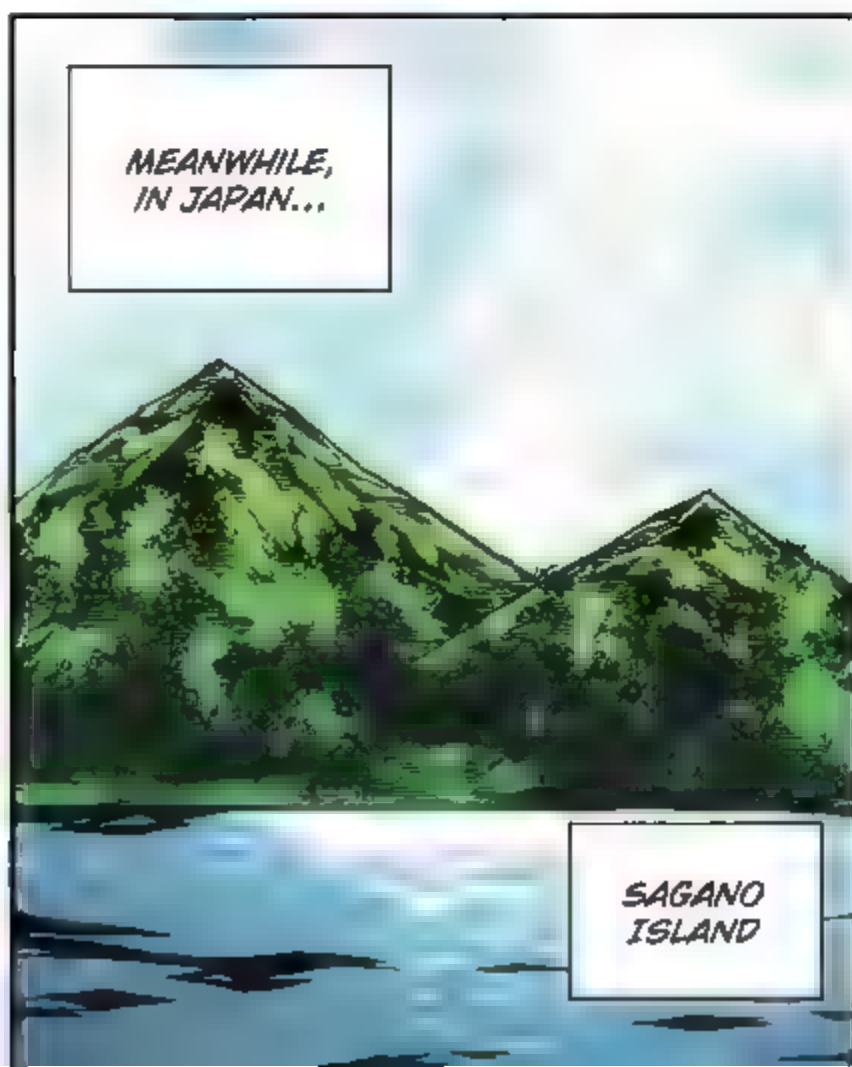
EXPELLING ME?
MYLINGHAN YOO?



I WON'T
LOSE TO
THIS.

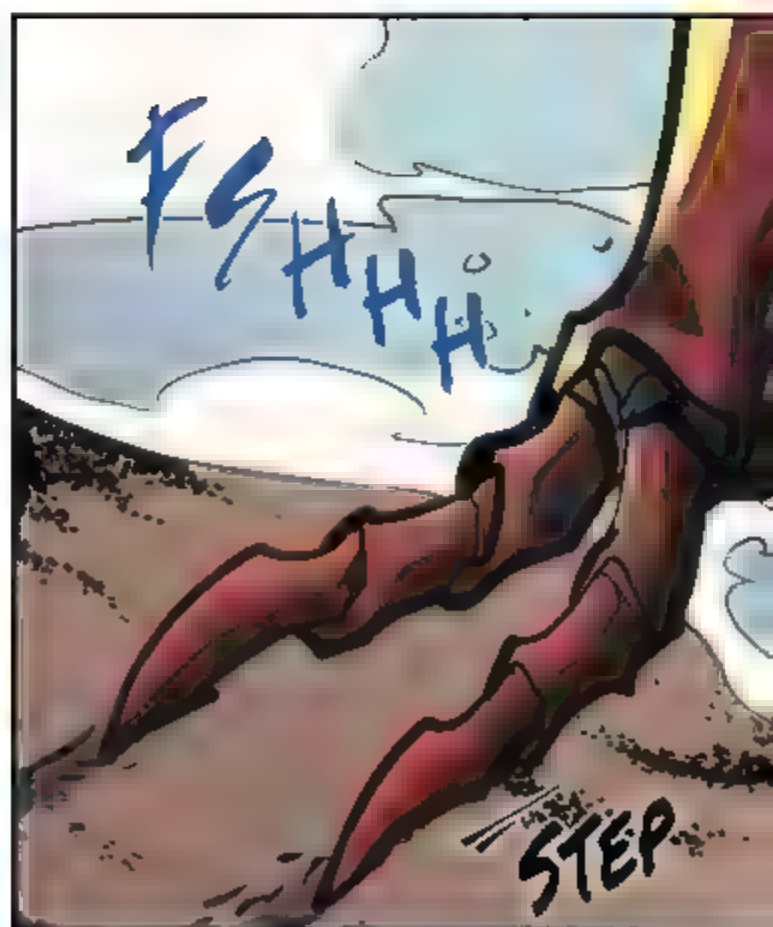


I CANNOT
LOSE TO THIS.



MEANWHILE,
IN JAPAN...

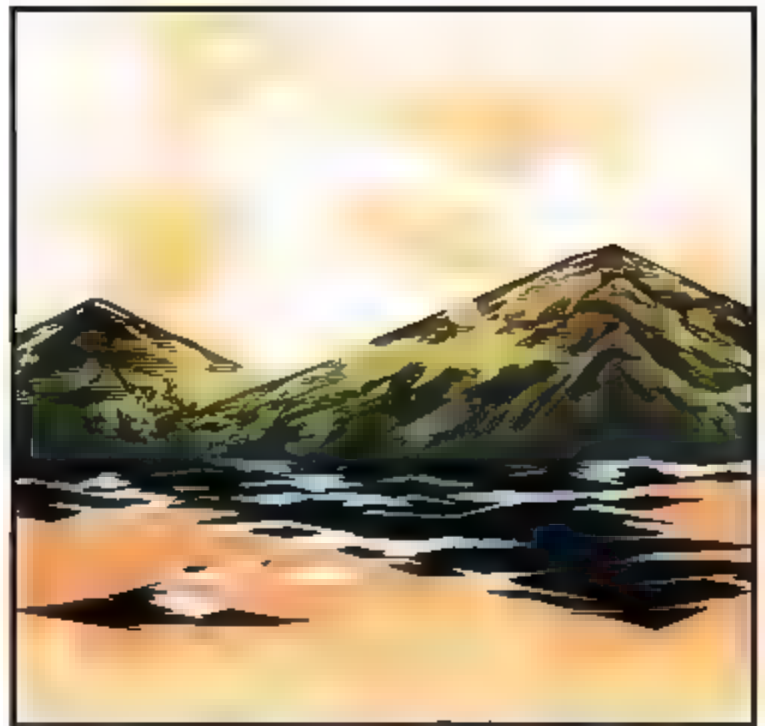
SAGANO
ISLAND



Fg H H H

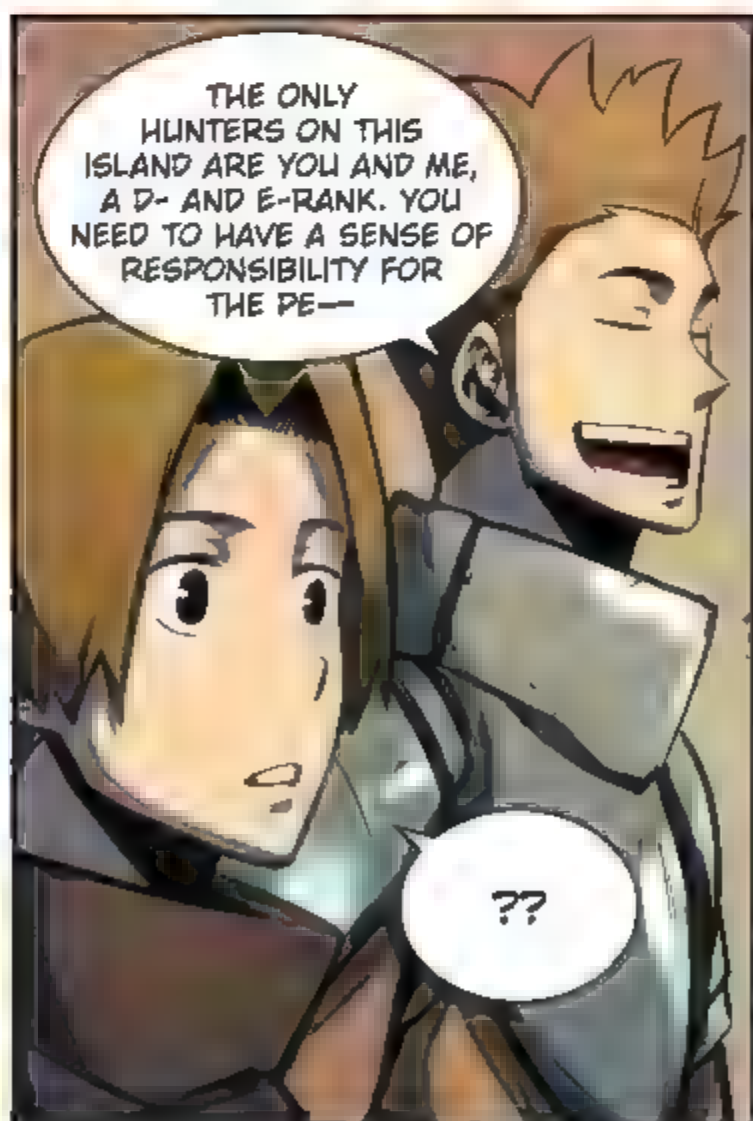
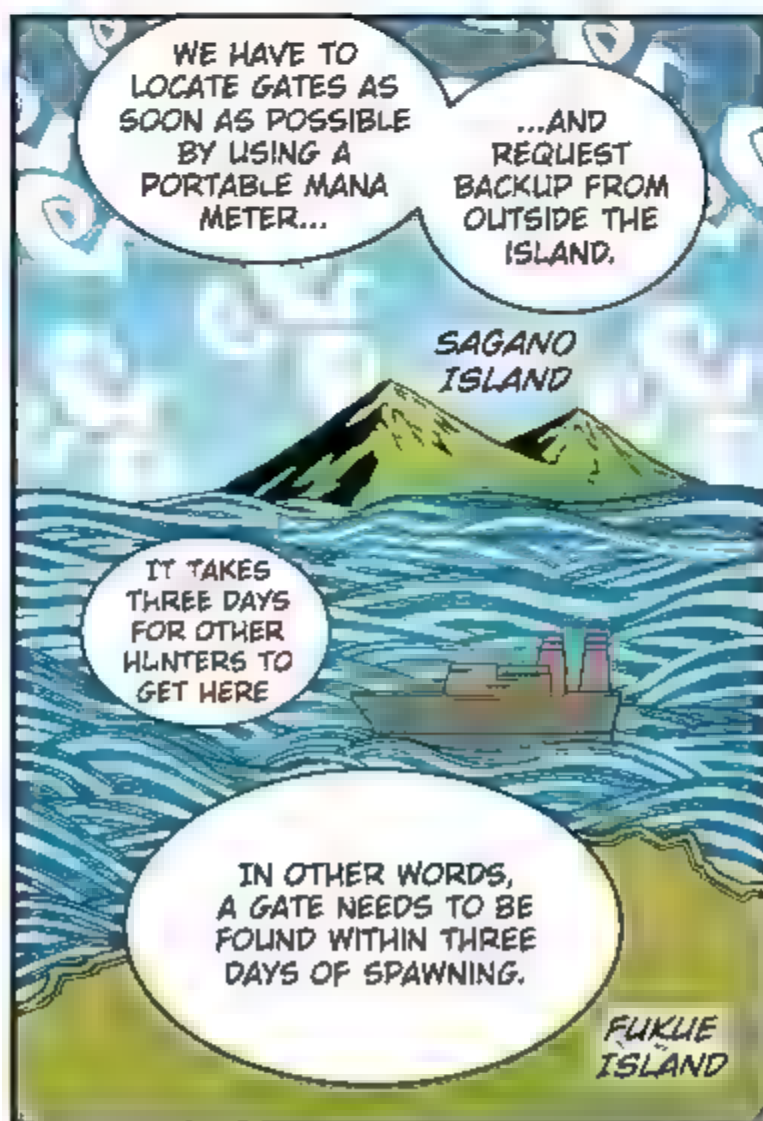
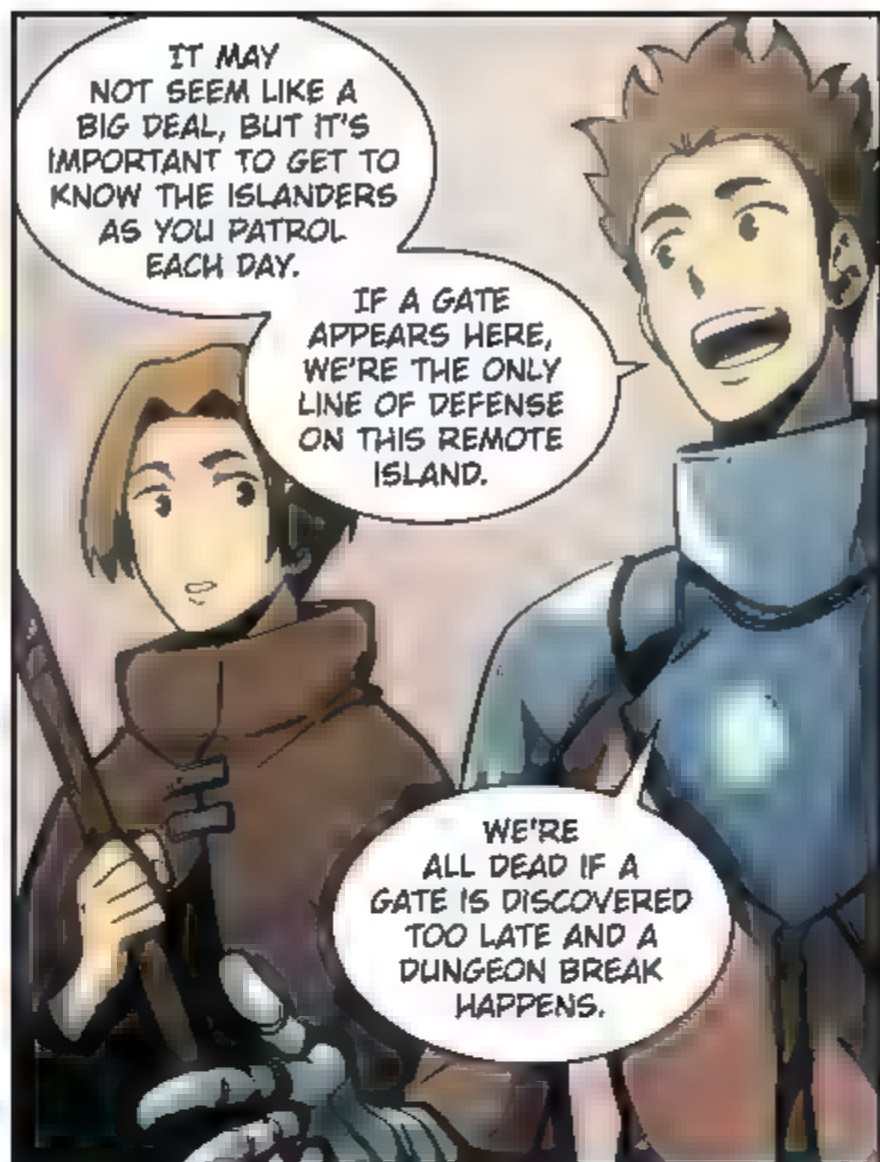
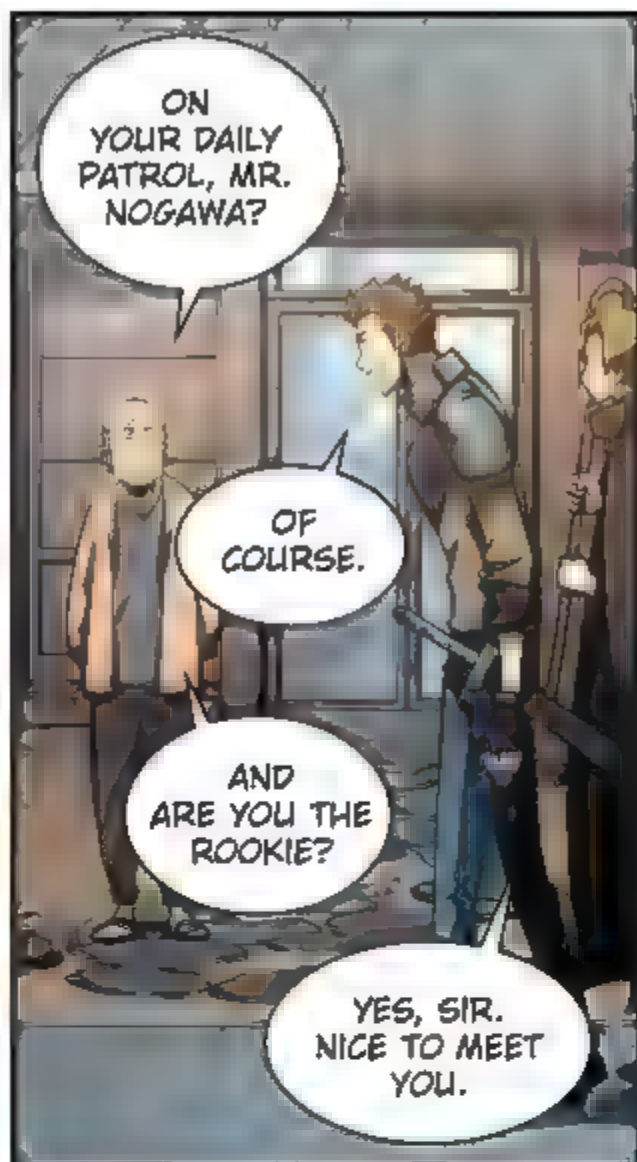
STEP

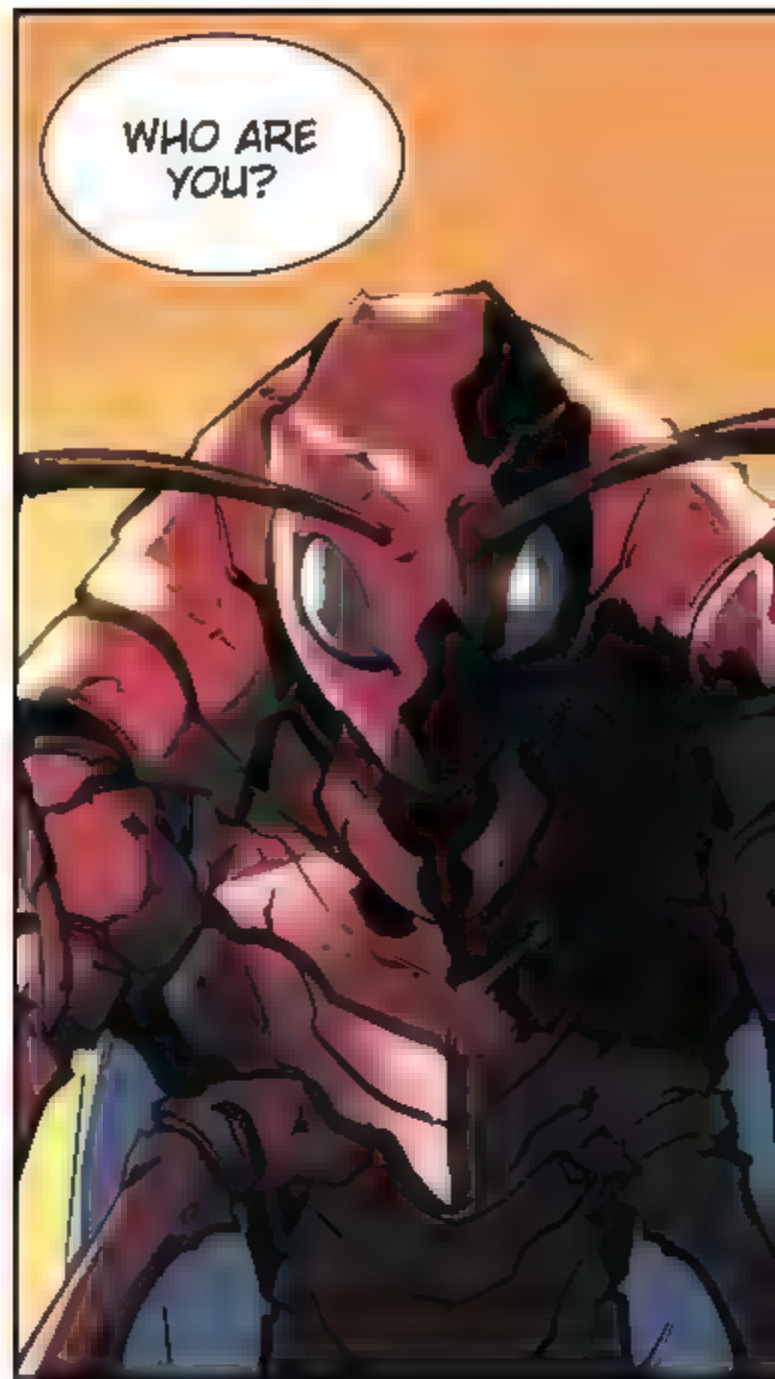
AN ANT HAS
MADE IT TO THE
ISLAND ALIVE.



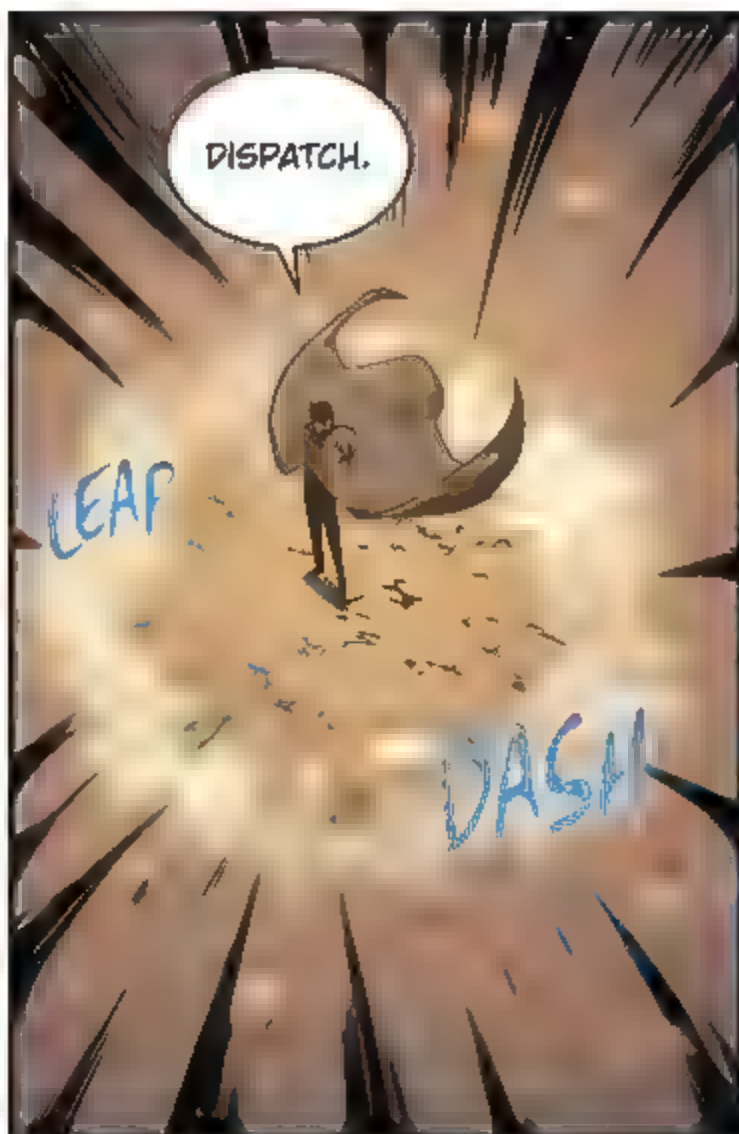
NOTHING
BEATS PEACE
AND QUIET.











DISPATCH.

LEAP

DASH

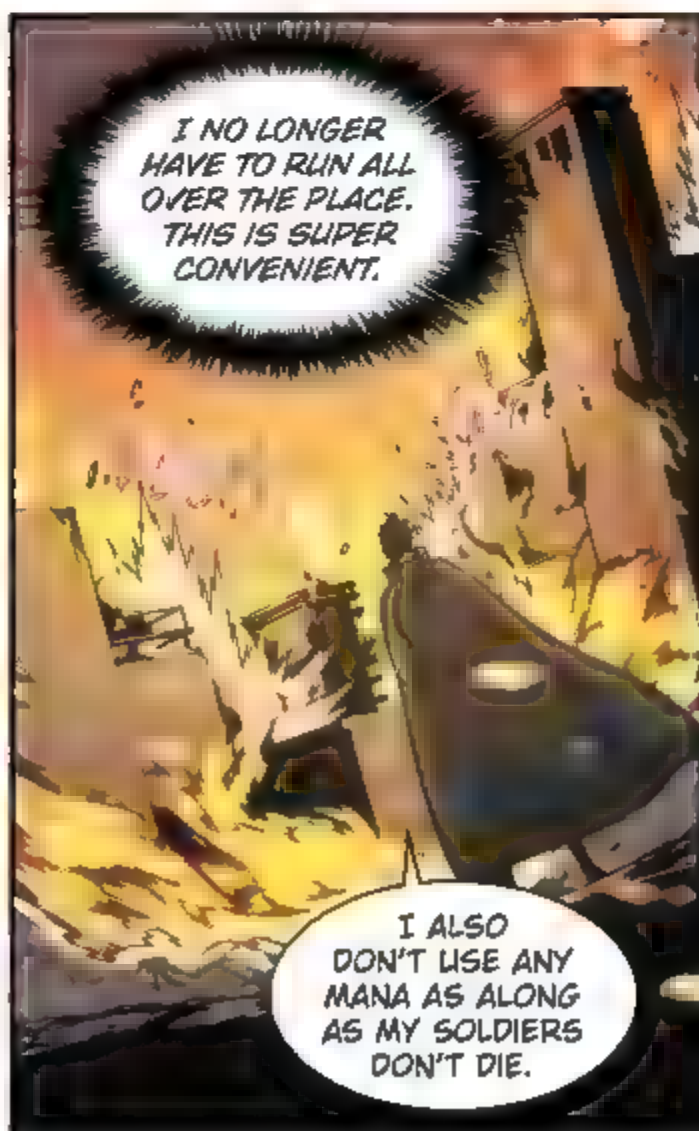


I'LL HAVE TO
ABANDON SOME
LOOT...

...BUT THE
PERMIT IS MY
PRIORITY.



I ONLY
SENT THEM OUT
MOMENTS AGO,
BUT I'VE ALREADY
STARTED
GAINING XP.



I NO LONGER
HAVE TO RUN ALL
OVER THE PLACE.
THIS IS SUPER
CONVENIENT.

I ALSO
DON'T USE ANY
MANA AS LONG
AS MY SOLDIERS
DON'T DIE.



THE ONLY
THING IS, THE DEMONS'
LEVELS HAVE GONE UP TO
THE HIGHEST, SO IT'LL BE
A CHALLENGE FOR THE
SHADOW BEASTS AND THE
REGULAR SHADOW
SOLDIERS.

GULP

I NEED
TO STEADILY
REPLENISH MANA
WITH POTIONS.



A FEW
DAYS LATER



OH? TANK WENT
UP TEN LEVELS
ALREADY?



Shadow Infantry Lv. 16
Regular Rank

Shadow Mage Lv. 19
Elite Rank

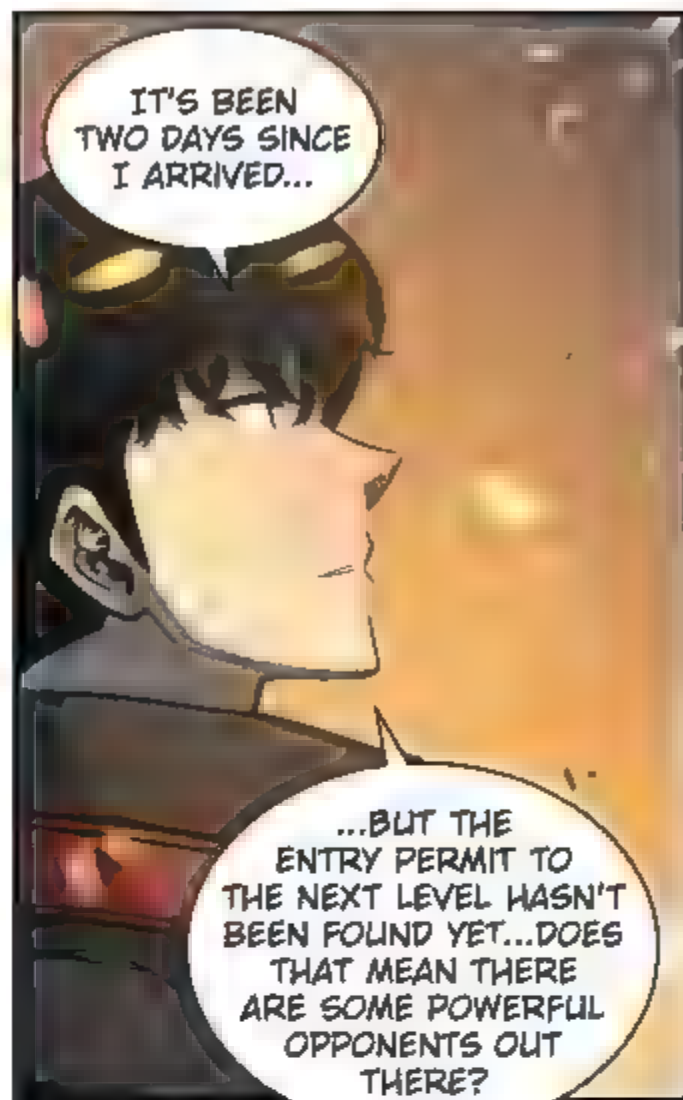
MY LEVEL HAS
GONE UP TOO, BUT
THE LEVELS OF ALL
THE SHADOW SOLDIERS
HAVE GONE UP
EXPONENTIALLY.

IT'S
DEFINITELY
EFFICIENT TO HAVE
THEM HUNT IN
GROUPS.

TWENTY
FLOORS LEFT
IN TOTAL.

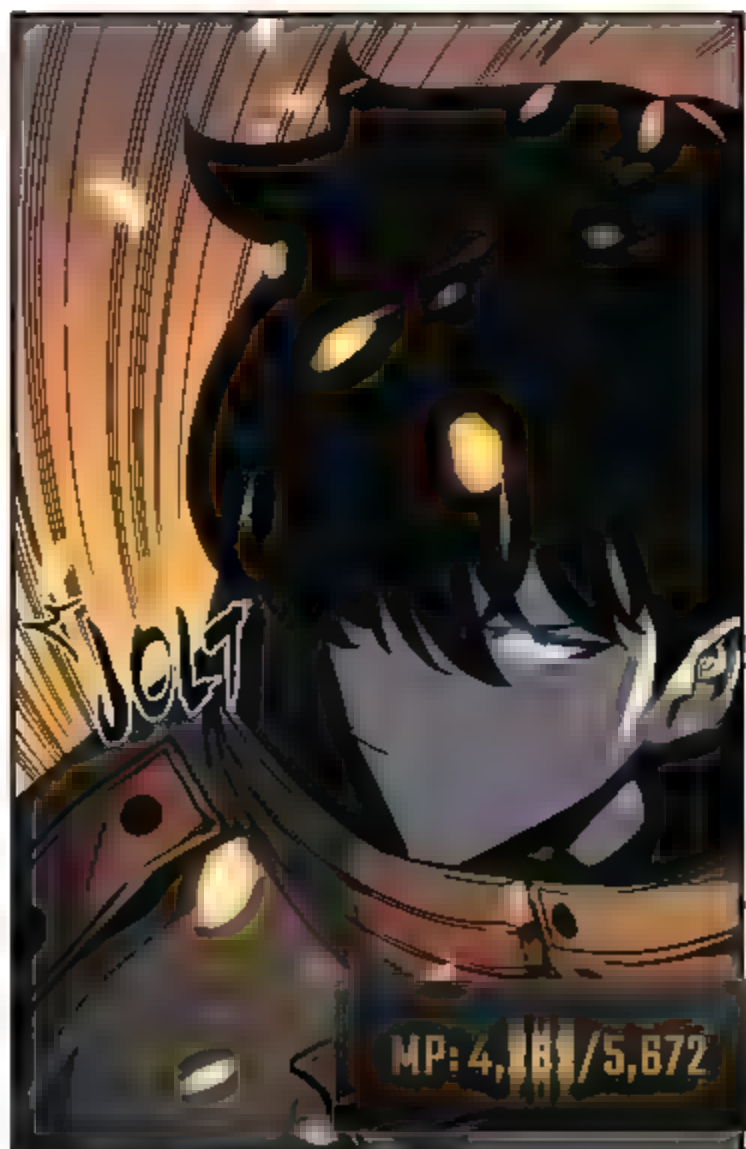


I WAS ABLE
TO HEAD TO THE
EIGHTIETH FLOOR
QUICKER THAN I
EXPECTED.



IT'S BEEN
TWO DAYS SINCE
I ARRIVED...

...BUT THE
ENTRY PERMIT TO
THE NEXT LEVEL HASN'T
BEEN FOUND YET...DOES
THAT MEAN THERE
ARE SOME POWERFUL
OPPONENTS OUT
THERE?

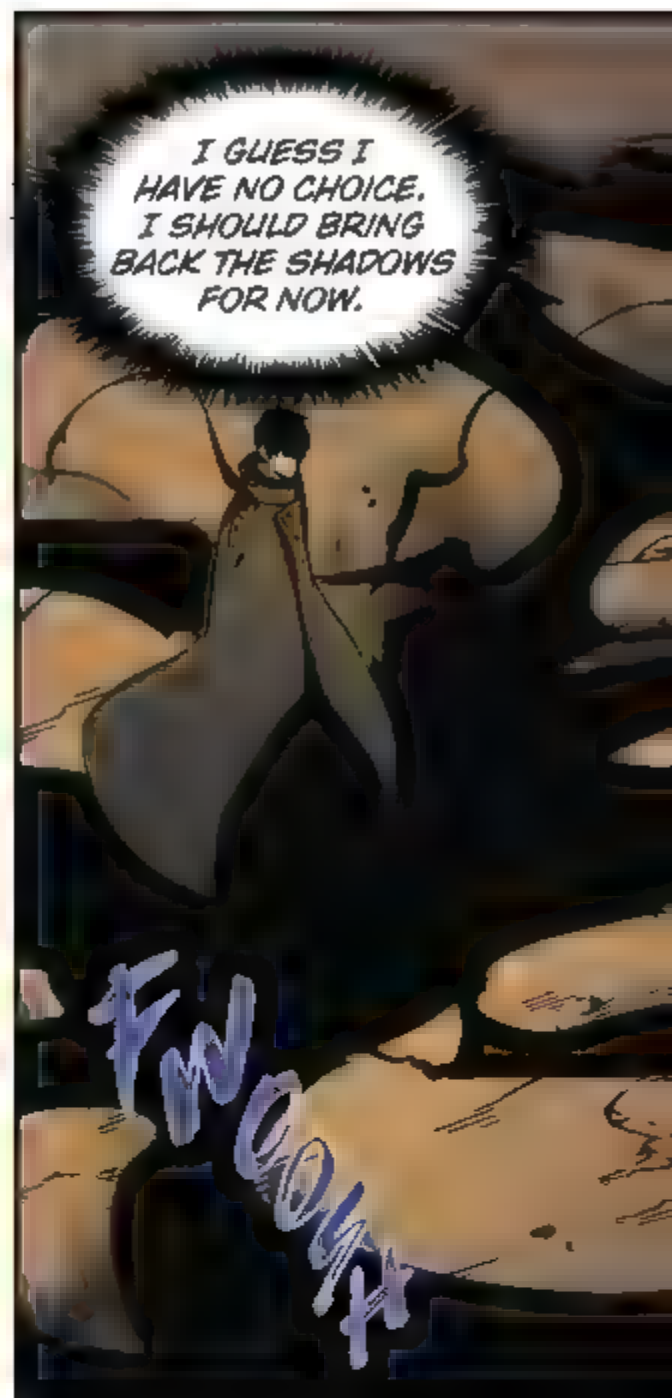


MANA IS
DECREASING
AT A VERY
RAPID SPEED.

SOMEONE
KEEPS KILLING
MY SHADOW
SOLDIERS.



IS IT OVER
THERE?





TEAM HIGH ORCS B AND TEAM IGRIS WERE DEFEATED RIGHT IN A ROW.

THERE ARE DEFINITELY FORMIDABLE FOES OUT THERE.

BUT...IT'S STRANGE.

TEAM FANG WAS CLOSER TO TEAM IGRIS, YET THE ENEMIES PASSED THEM UP AND ATTACKED TEAM HIGH ORCS A INSTEAD.

DOES THIS MEAN THE DEMONS AREN'T AS GOOD AGAINST FANG?

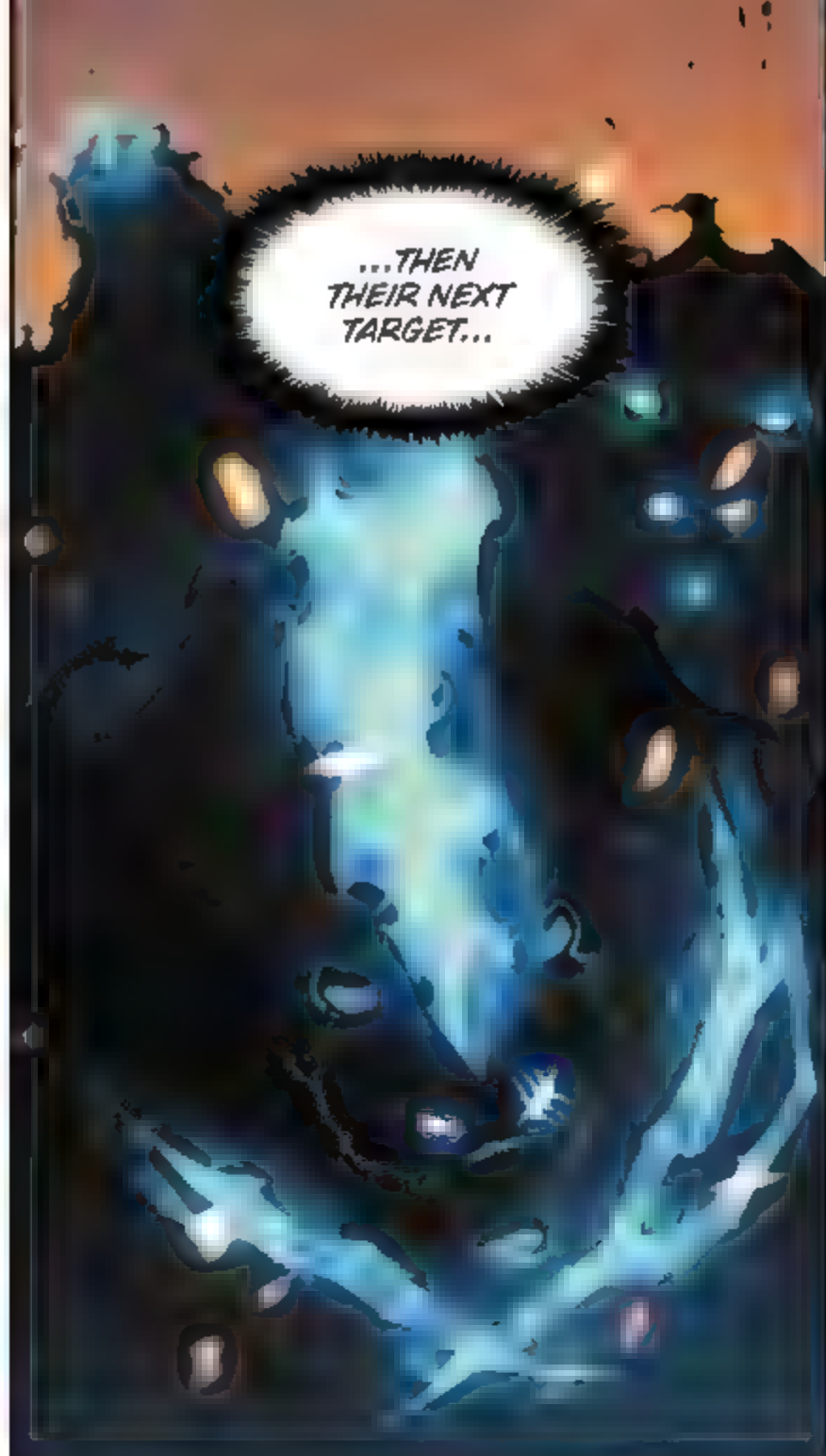
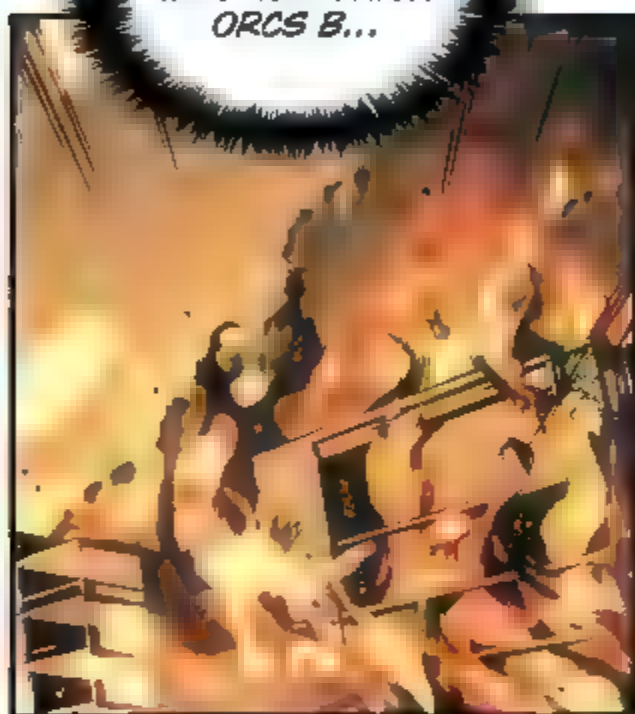
IF THOSE DEMONS ONLY ATTACK THE ENEMIES THEY THINK THEY CAN DEFEAT...

HMM...

...THAT MEANS THEY'RE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT THEIR OPPONENT'S WEAKNESSES.



IF THEY COULD
TAKE TEAM HIGH
ORCS B...



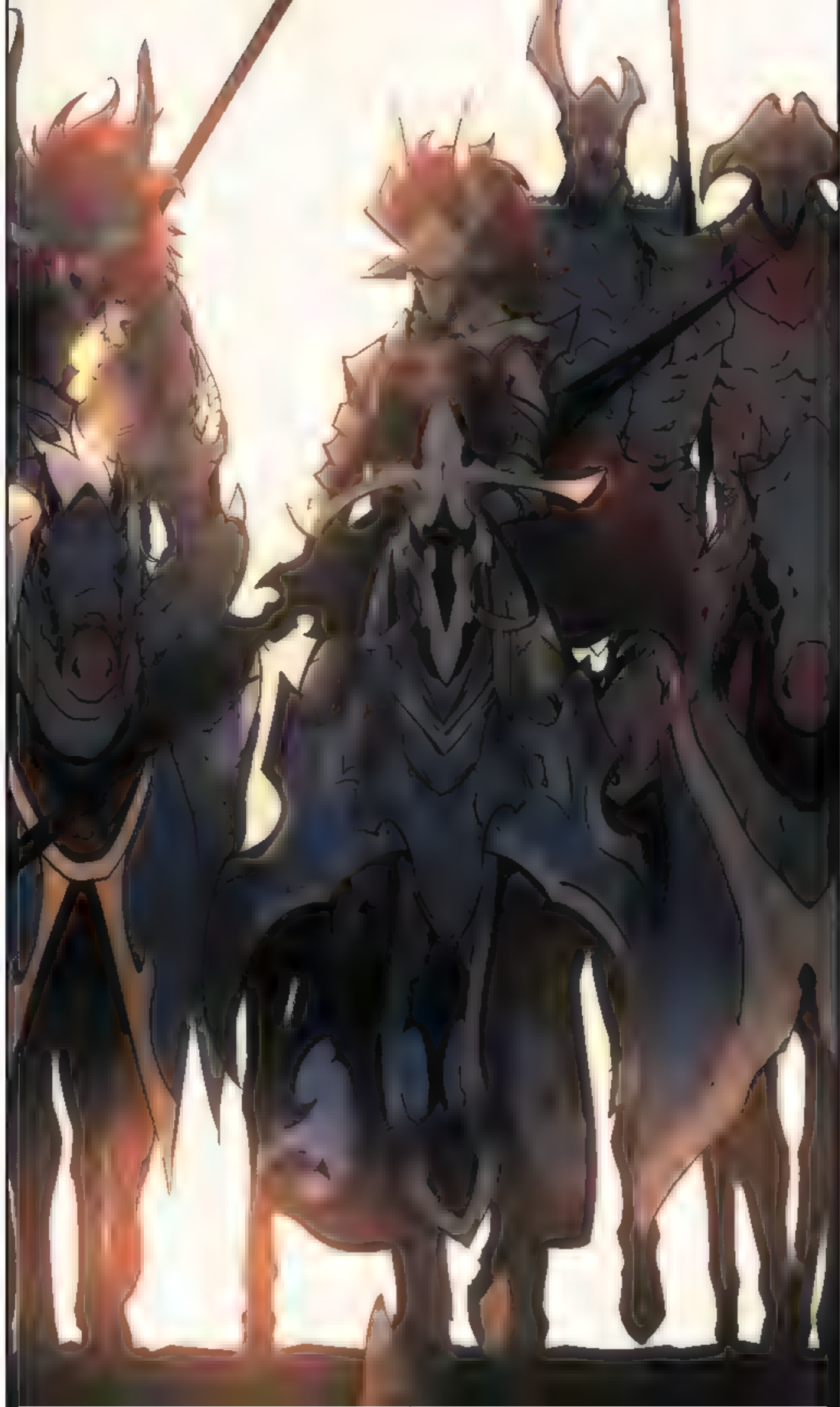
...THEN
THEIR NEXT
TARGET...



...MUST BE—

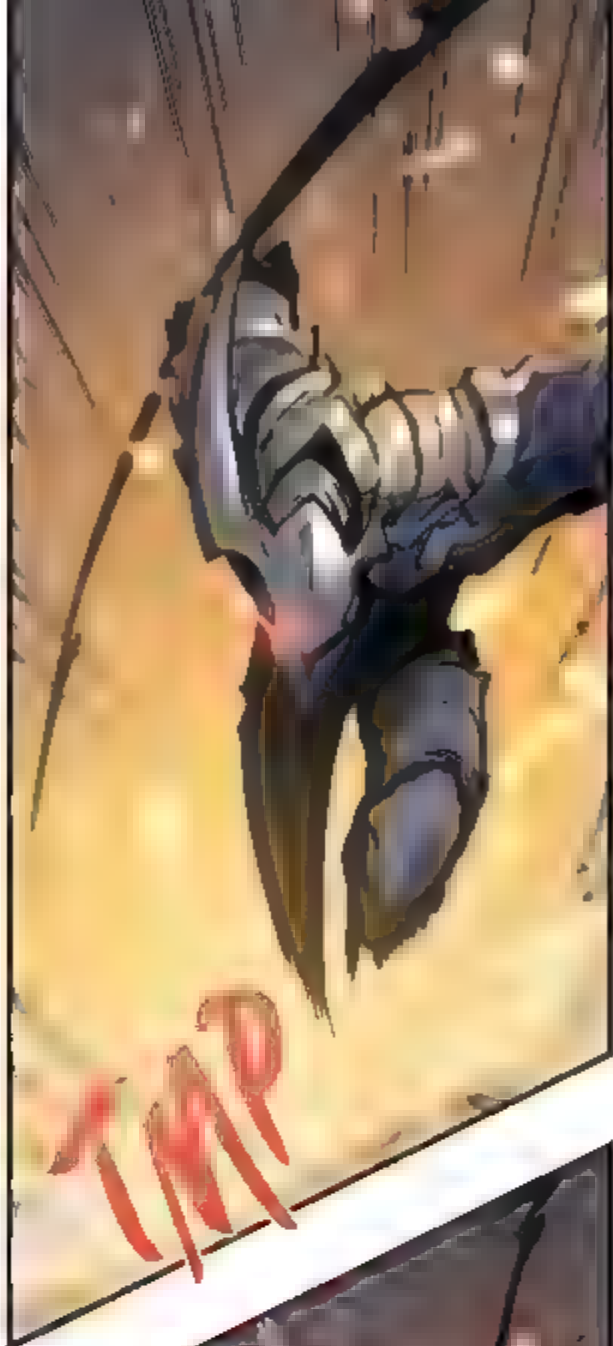


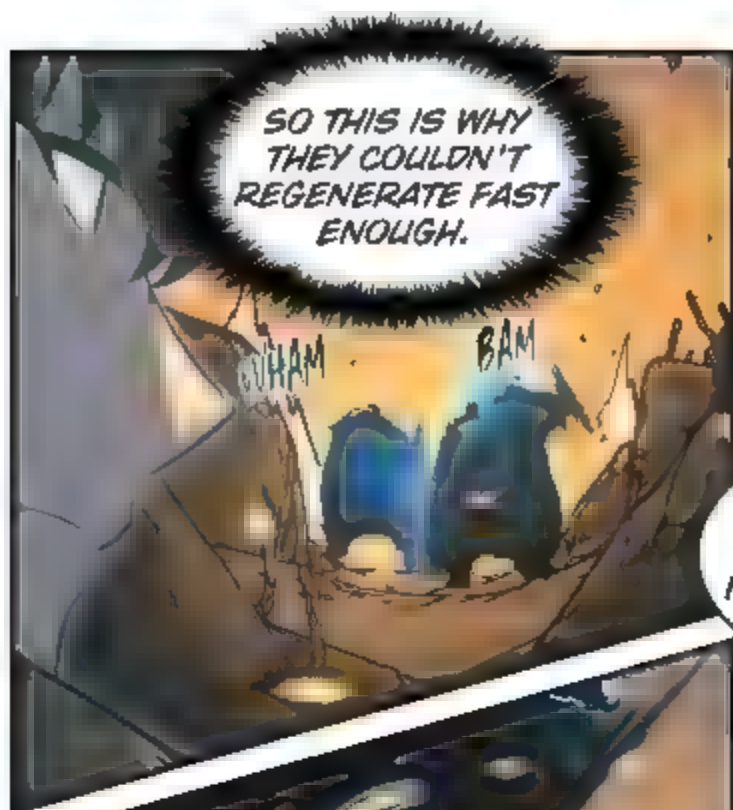
THEY'RE
COMING.



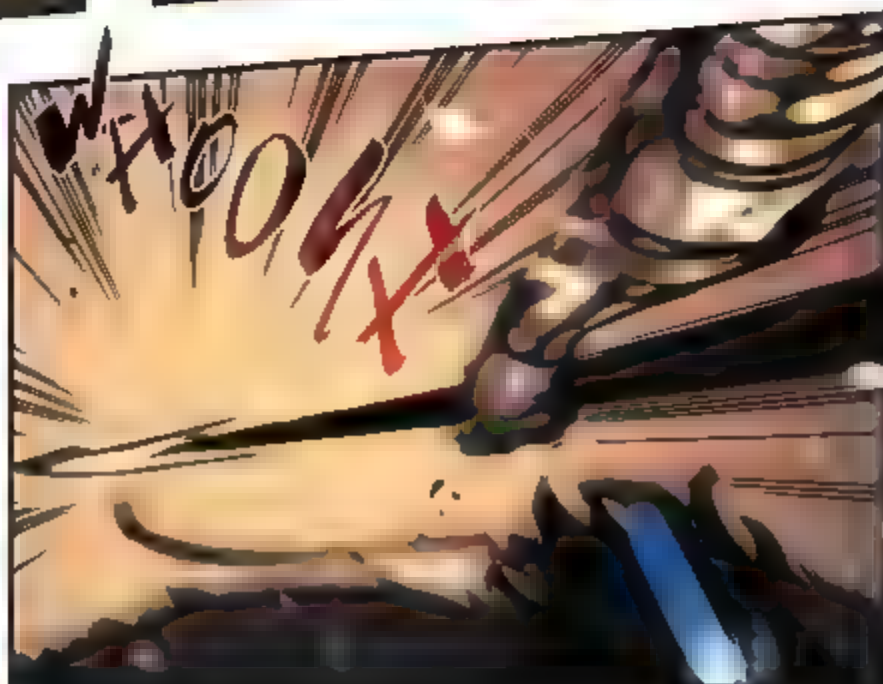
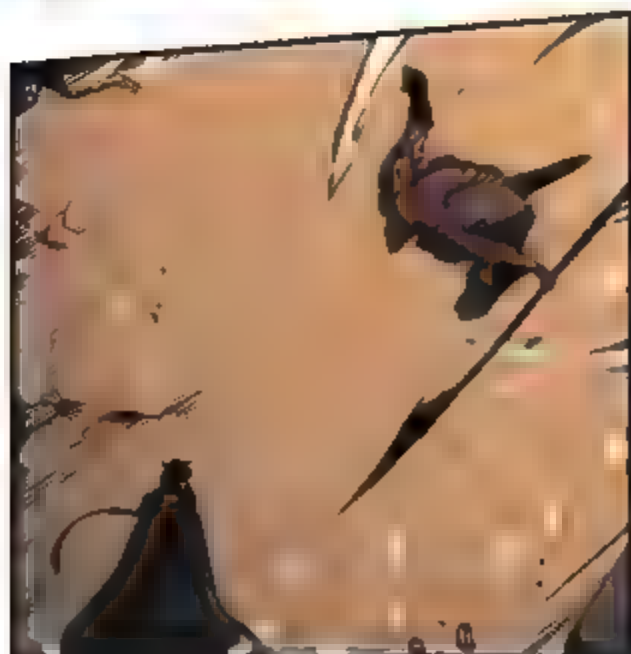
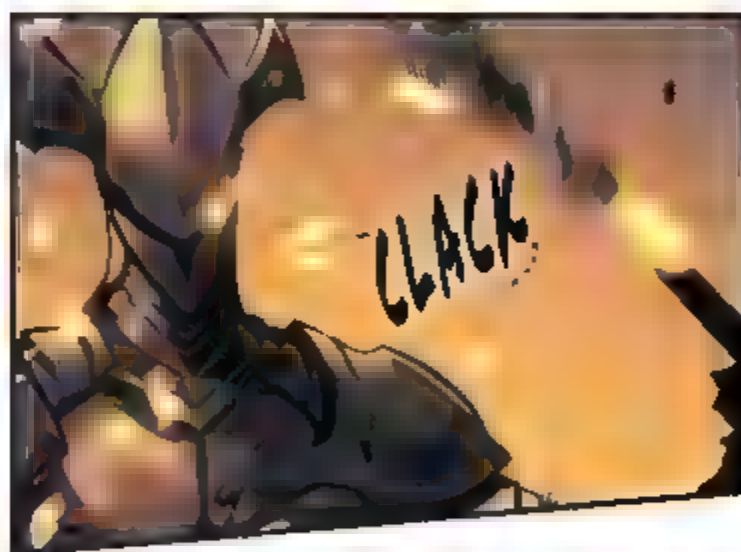
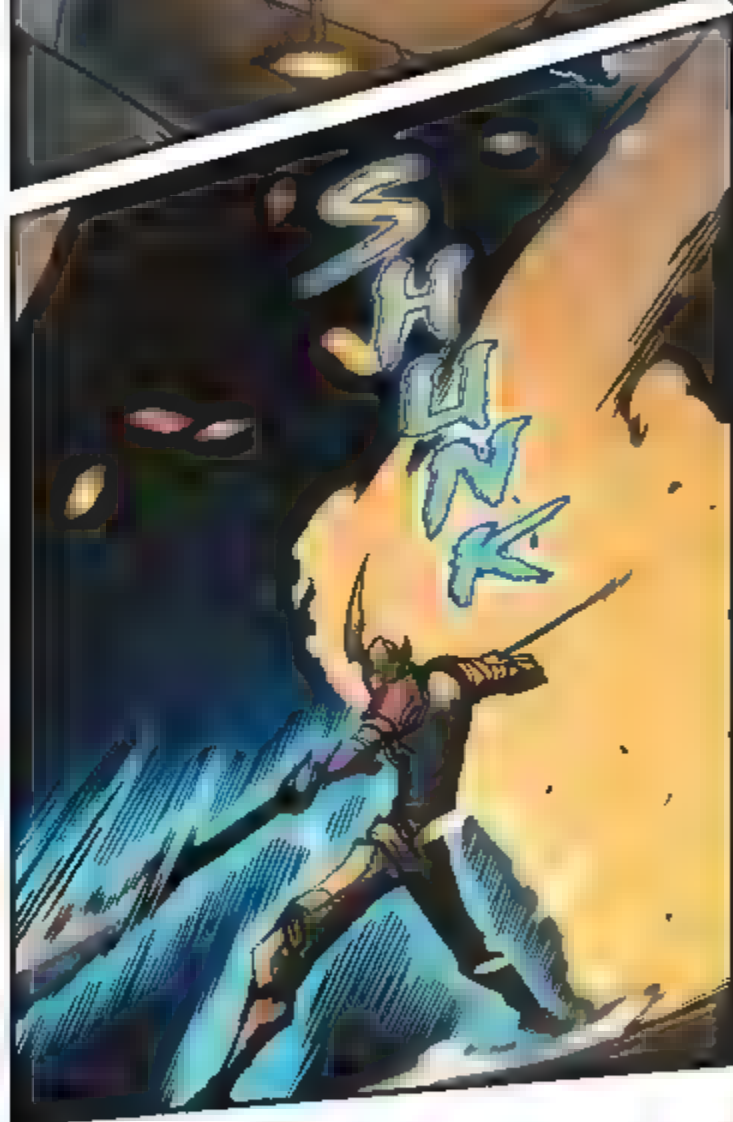
A DEMON
NOBLE AND
THREE DEMON
KNIGHTS.

GRAAAWR!





I GUESS
THE SHADOW
BEASTS ARE NO
MATCH FOR THESE
DEMONS.



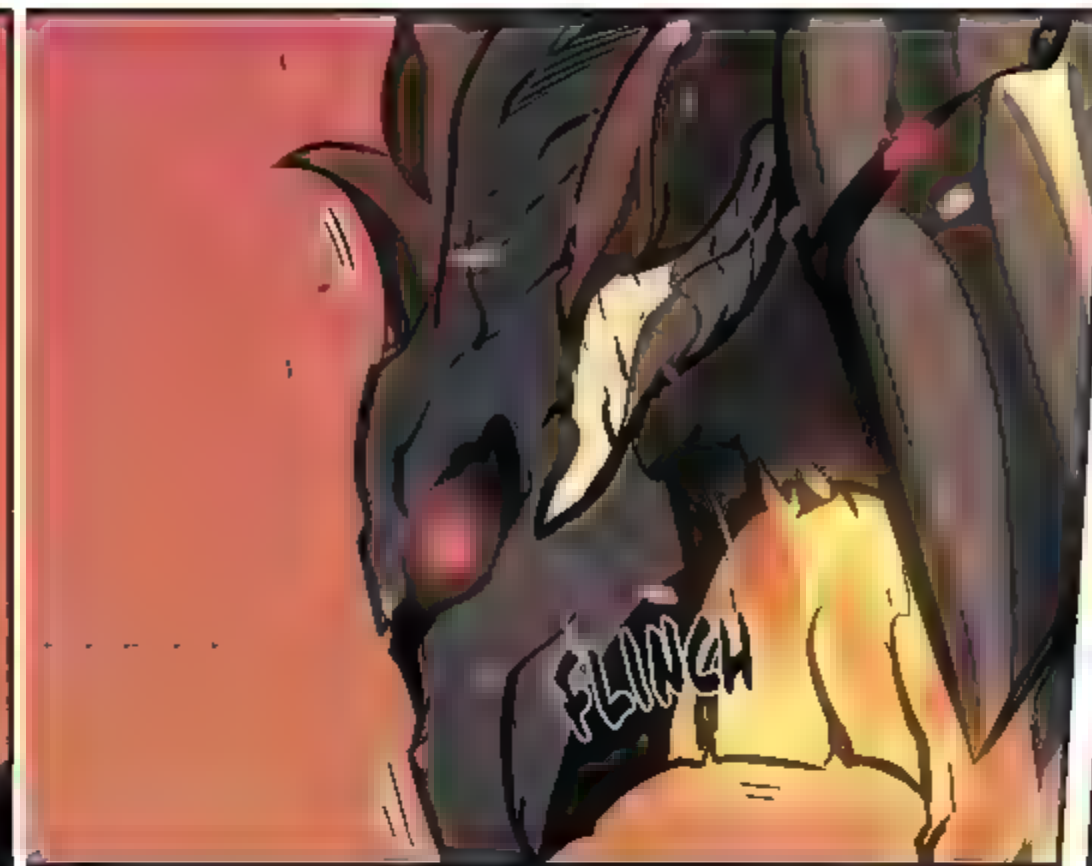
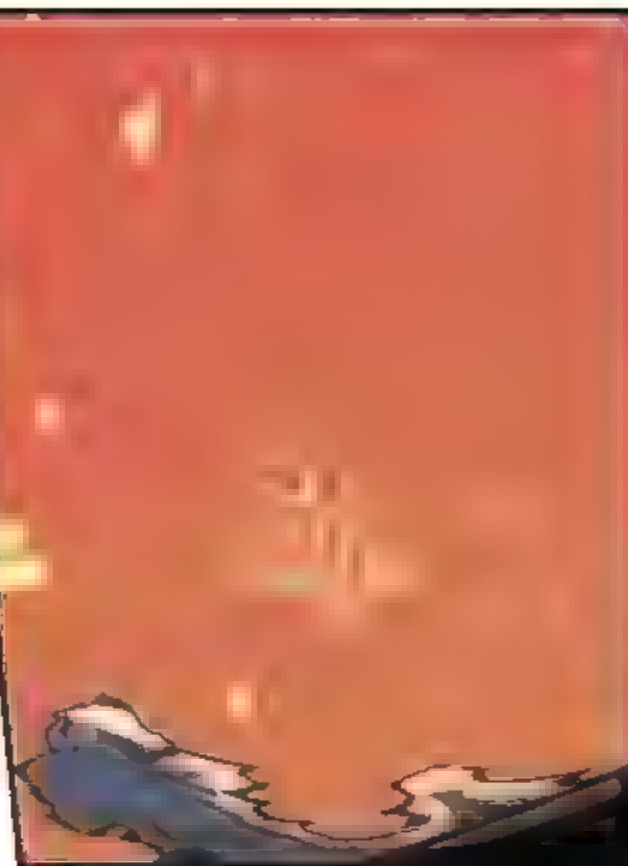


GLAM!

You have defeated a demon knight.
You have acquired 3,000 XP.



RUSH

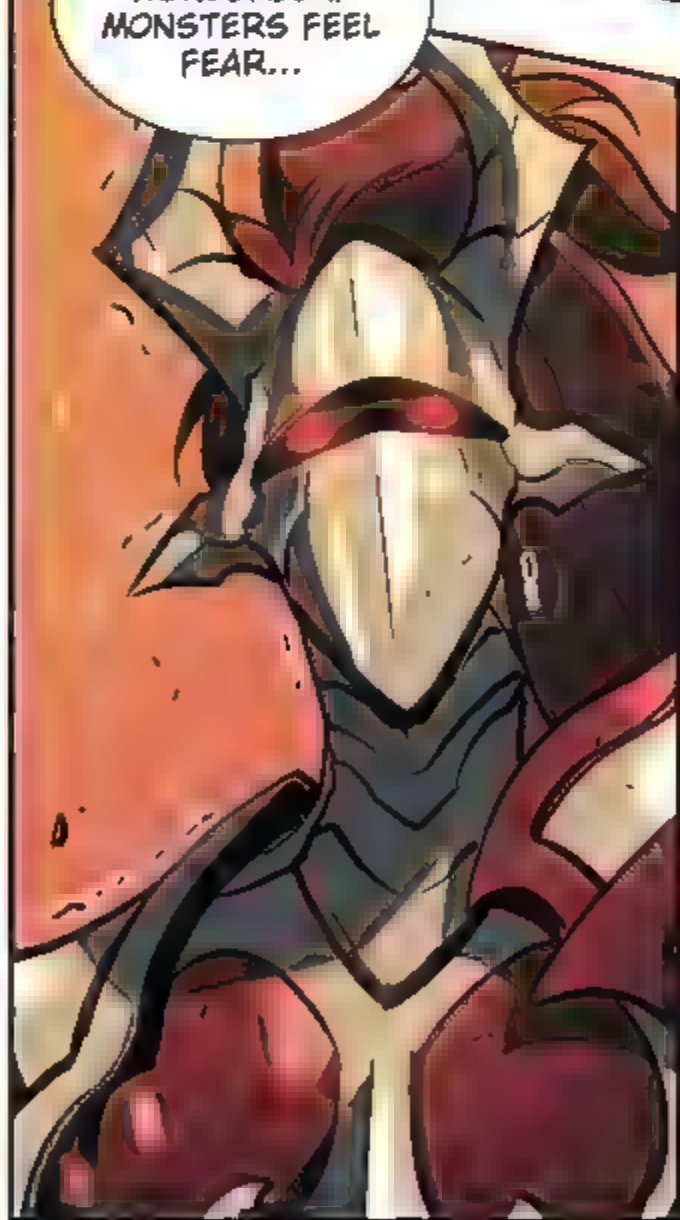


You have defeated a demon knight.
You have acquired 3,000 XP.

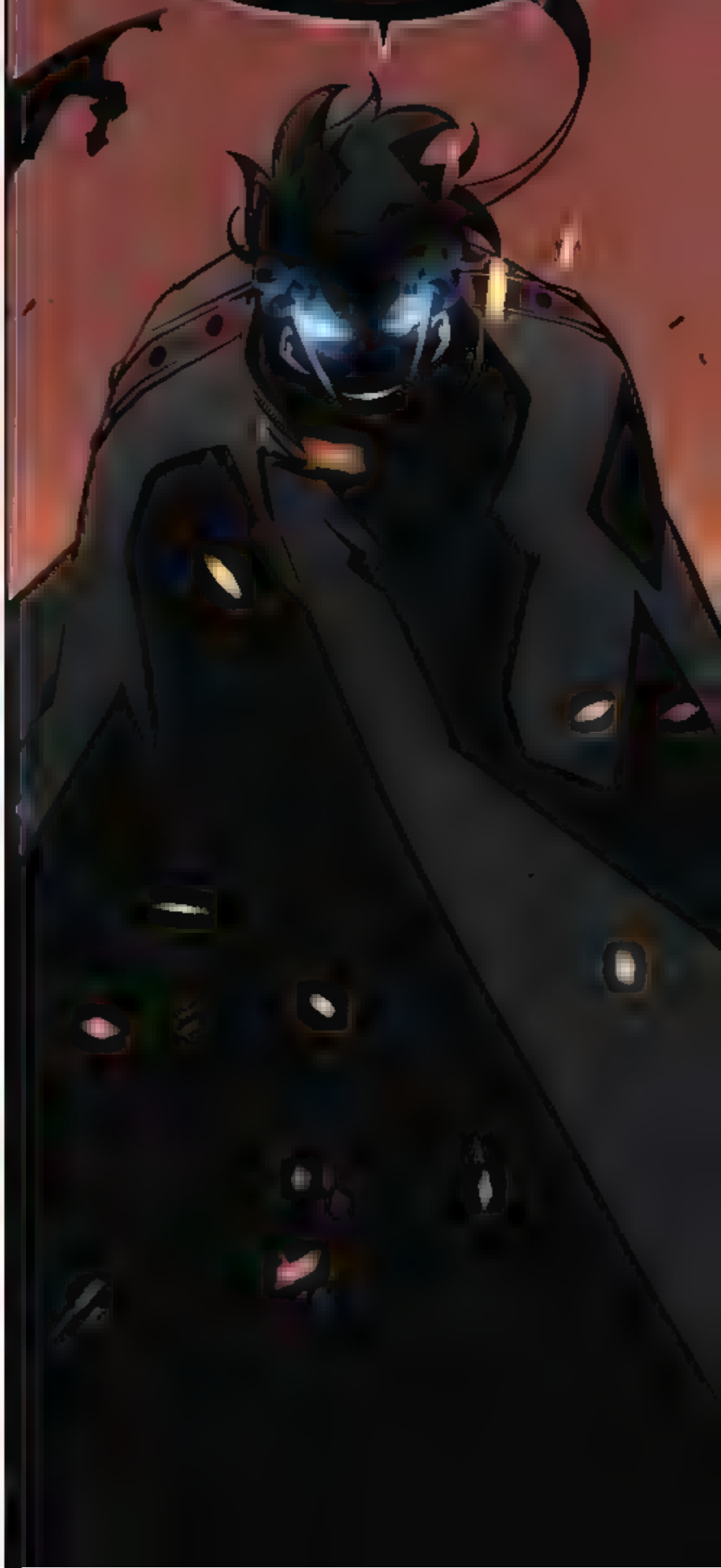
You have defeated a demon knight.
You have acquired 3,000 XP.



I'VE ALWAYS
WONDERED IF
MONSTERS FEEL
FEAR...



NOW I KNOW
FOR SURE.



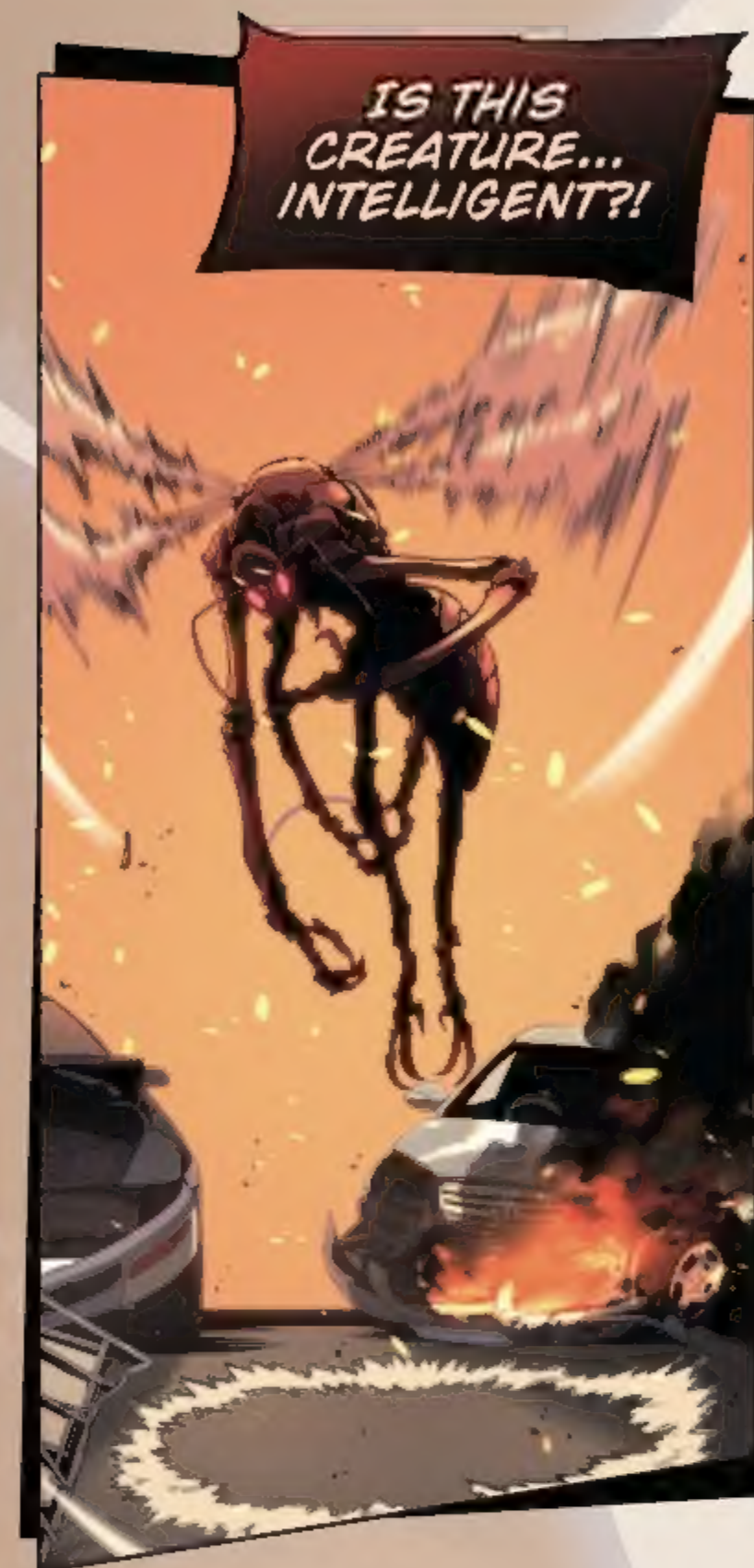
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6...



A CLUE ABOUT THE NATURE
OF THE SYSTEM IN THE
INSTANCE DUNGEON!

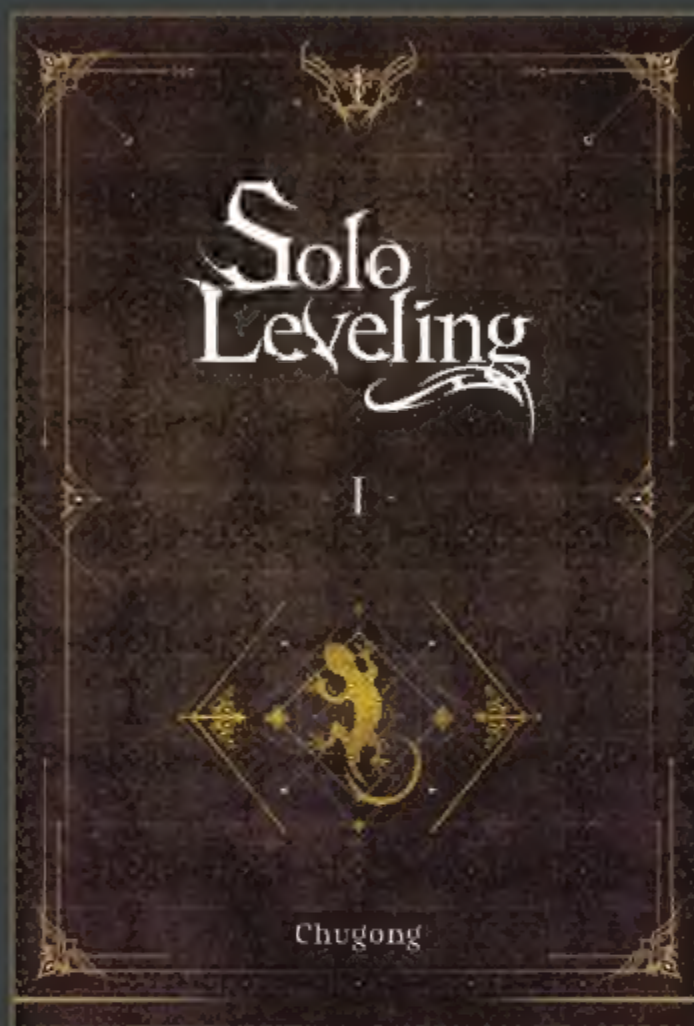


DANGER APPROACHES!



Solo
Leveling
6
COMING SOON!

**READ THE NOVEL
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!**



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SOLO LEVELING

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PING!

[Congratulations on becoming a Player.]

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SOLO LEVELING Volume 5

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